

The Baptist Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

Thursday, August 12, 1993

Published Since 1877

Salesman for Christ in Spain grosses \$250,000 for ministry

By Mike Creswell

DENIA, Spain (BP) — Friends call Tim Shupp a natural salesman.

Before becoming a Southern Baptist missionary in 1987, Shupp sold used cars, photocopiers, and potato chips in the Dallas-Fort Worth area. In Spain, he took on the task of selling Bibles and Christian books across the country.

It's too bad Shupp doesn't work on commission anymore. When he took over the Baptist literature ministry five years ago its \$40,000 in annual sales wasn't enough to cover expenses. Last year the operation grossed about \$250,000 — a sixfold increase — and sold books and Bibles across Spain.

Compared to the United States, Spain has few Christian bookstores. Shupp's operation is about the only source for Baptist books in the country.

Only 7,500 Baptists and 70,000 total evangelicals can be found among Spain's 40 million people. Up to 90 percent of Spaniards get counted as Roman Catholic in general statistics, but only about one in four Catholics attend Mass. Baptist leaders say Spain is one of Europe's major mission fields.

Shupp took over the literature work in 1989 after studying the Spanish language. A single bookstore operated by Spanish Baptists closed about the same time — leaving only a supply of books housed in a leaky warehouse.

Shupp changed the operation into a wholesale distributorship concentrating on three areas:

First, he began placing books in evangelical bookstores sprinkled about the country, letting them handle promotion and distribution and making Baptist books available both to Baptists and other evangelicals. "This is probably about half our market now," said Shupp.

Christian readers in Spain follow the same trends as those in the United States, Shupp said. "There's a strong interest in popular Christian writers who are American — people like Chuck Swindoll and James Dobson," he said.

Second, he began actively marketing books through local Baptist churches. "Most of our Spanish Baptist churches have book displays set up, really small bookshops, which remind Baptists of books that are available. The churches then order books from us by mail," he explained.

But Shupp isn't content to let mail orders do all the work. About 20 weekends a year he packs a van and hits the road to sell directly. He goes to Bible conferences, educational meetings, women's meetings. His fluent Spanish helps as he spends hours buttonholing people to discuss his wares.

Shupp's marketing experience has helped him study his audience. At Sunday School-related conferences he displays a range of materials on Bible teaching; at seminary-related meetings he shows theological books.

About 95% of his books come from the Baptist Publishing House

in El Paso, Texas, a publisher of Spanish-language materials owned by the Foreign Mission Board. These days his warehouse is a modern, well-lighted building in Valencia. Although still sponsored by the Foreign Mission Board and Spanish Baptists, the book operation is self-supporting.

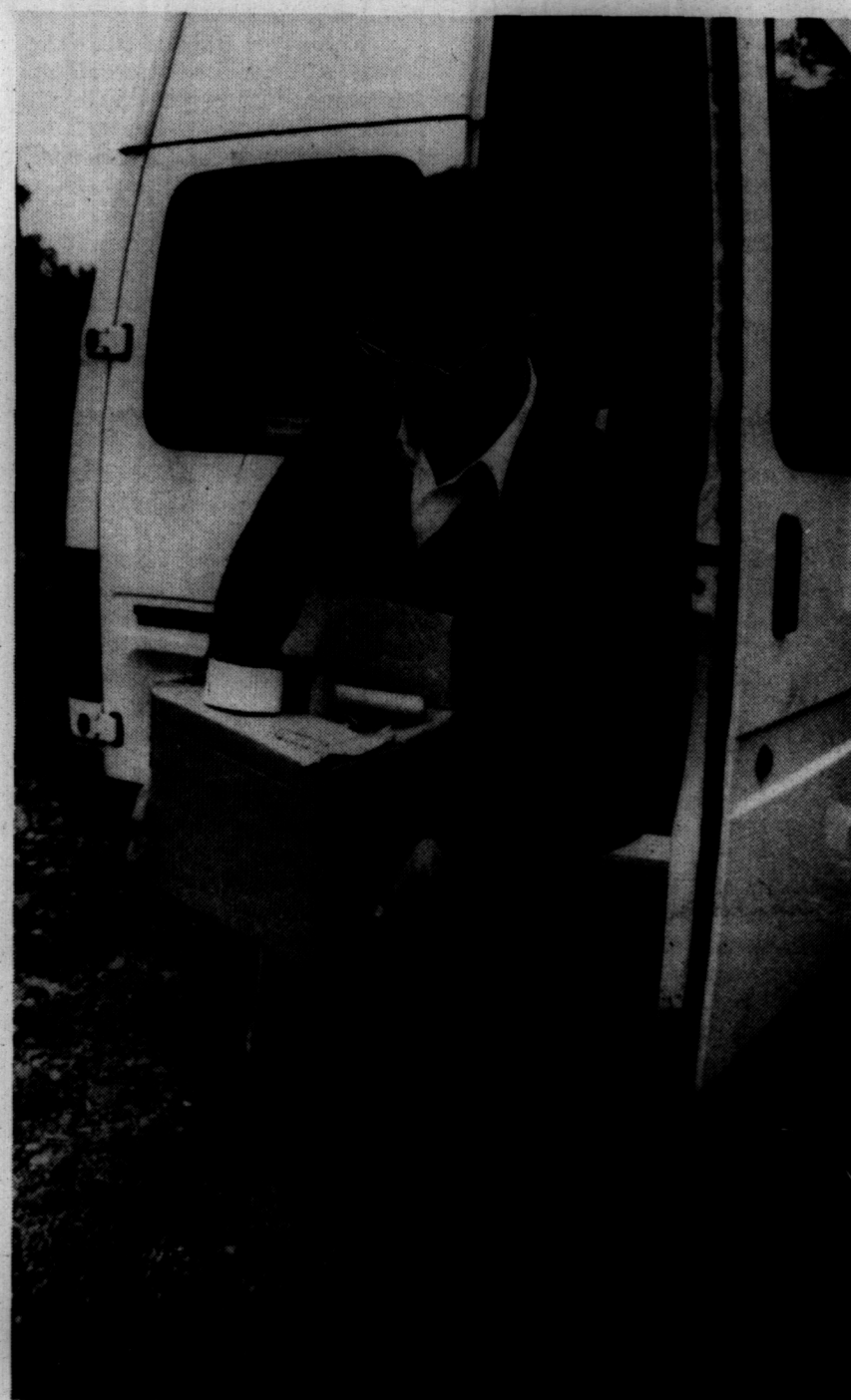
Despite the schedule, books are only part of the Shupps' ministry. Besides parenting five young children, he and his wife, Louise, are active in Holy Trinity Evangelical Baptist Church in Denia, on Spain's Mediterranean coast south of Valencia. Known for its sunny climate, Denia is a popular retirement area for Europeans, many of whom speak English better than Spanish.

The Shupps lead Thursday-evening worship services for English speakers. Shupp also produces English-language radio broadcasts to reach this international community and preaches periodically at three churches that have no pastors. And during the spring, he found himself leading discipleship lessons with a former Catholic nun and a former drug addict.

Shupp said before long he hopes to turn the publishing operation over to a Spanish Baptist while he focuses on starting a new church. If he's as successful with church planting as selling Christian books, a new church should emerge soon.

It just goes to show: When a born salesman turns to missions, big things happen.

Creswell writes for FMB.



LEGWORK — Missionary Tim Shupp's past sales experience comes in handy as he distributes Bibles and Baptist literature across Spain. Not content to let bookstores and mail orders do all the work, he often packs a van and hits the road to sell directly at churches and meetings. (BP photo by Mike Creswell)

Evangelism school slated

"Equipping the Sower" will be the theme of the Mid-South School of Evangelism and Church Growth, to be held Oct. 14-16 at New Orleans Seminary. The school will offer a comprehensive view of church growth designed to equip ministers and laity in motivating their congregations to grow through evangelism, reclaiming inactive members, and beginning new growth units. Over 70 conferences will be offered over three days. Conference leaders include Ken Hemphill, director of the Center for Church Growth; Chuck Kelley, associate professor of evangelism at New Orleans Seminary; Jim Henry, pastor of First Church, Orlando, Fla.; and Darrell Robinson, vice-president of the Evangelism Section at the Home Mission Board. The event is sponsored by the Baptist Sunday School Board, Home Mission Board, and New Orleans Seminary, in cooperation with the Mississippi and Louisiana Baptist Conventions. For more information, call (504) 282-4455, extension 3260.

Allison is guest editor

Jane Allison, wife of University Church, Hattiesburg, pastor Richard Allison, is serving as guest editor of the current issue of *Magazette*, a quarterly publication of



Allison

Woman's Missionary Union (WMU) designed to encourage and enable ministers' wives. To amplify the issue's focus on how women interpret their roles as ministers' wives, Allison conducted a revealing survey that indicated ministers' wives largely regarded their role as "called" or "gifted," with a few suggestions on what they would change if they could, such as "Assume more of my own identity;" "That church members would see that I am just like they are;" "I would change people's expectations of my role;" "Would like to express my opinion in business meetings." For information on the publication, contact *Magazette*, P.O. Box 12065, Birmingham, AL 35202-2065.

Looking back...

10 years ago

Farrell Blankenship was selected as director of broadcast services for MBCB, with the mission of organizing the newly-created ACTS satellite network in Mississippi.

20 years ago

State Sen. Charles Pickering, Baptist layman from Laurel, pre-filed a legislative bill that accords clergy the right of professional confidentiality.

30 years ago

Mississippi College's registrar released figures indicating that the school's enrollment will soar to over 2,400 students for the coming school year.

EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

Guy Henderson

The flagship of Christian higher education

First it was like a torpedo blasting the side of the ship. Several casualties resulted, but damage control moved in and did a good job of getting things under control. Now another shell slams into the ridge and the captain of the ship is put out of action. In combat, the real measure of a ship is how much it can take and still be effective in carrying out its mission.

The NCAA investigation of Mississippi College was worse than an intercepted pass returned for a touchdown. It cost the college a hard-earned national championship, TV exposure, and the school received a black eye. The damage control group took over. The football program continued and the school started the return to respectability. Soon the sun was shining again; 4,200 students; operating in the black; \$1.6 million given by the alumni; and the

school president honored for 25 years of great service.

Suddenly a gale is blowing. Lewis Nobles, school president, announces his resignation in the midst of accusations and speculations. How much can the ship take?

Only this time the damage appears to be much greater. This time it concerns funds given to the college. There were 4,136 donors giving \$1.6 million to the college in the annual fund drive.

Suddenly temporary restraining orders, complaints, and depositions are keeping the wires hot between Jackson and Clinton. Defendant and plaintiff are scratching for every foothold, and donors are appalled.

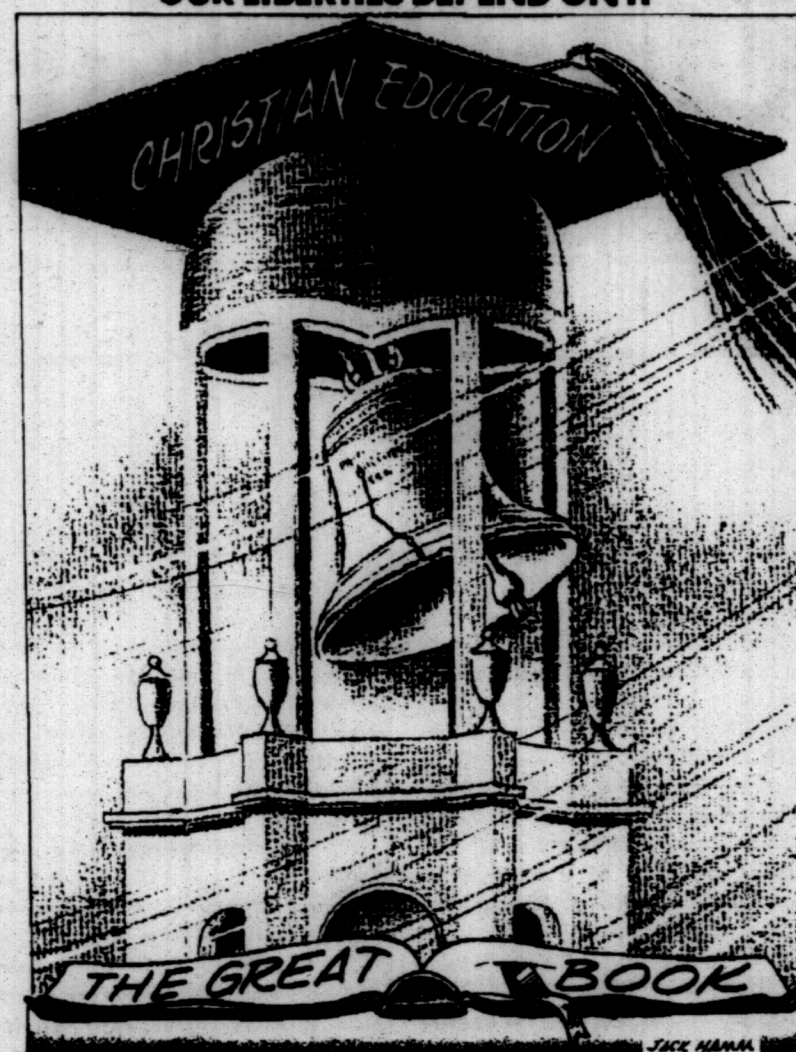
Much slower, but firmly, damage control begins to act. Rory Lee, experienced and capable, is named acting school president. Harry Vickery, Greenville busi-

ness leader and trustee chairman, declared that details would be made available when the inquiry is completed.

Monday noon the lawyer released information. Apparently the damage is worse than suspected. Mississippi College trustees are competent and compassionate and will do what they believe to be best for the college. We owe them a debt of gratitude. As concerned supporters of MC, we would do well to hold our judgment until all the facts are in.

Some facts are known today. Lewis Nobles has resigned. The college will continue. I would still encourage my son or daughter to attend MC and would consider any endowment or gift as money well spent. In a society marked by materialism and humanism, we need as never before to get behind Christian education.

OUR LIBERTIES DEPEND ON IT



Guest opinion...

Remember the purpose

By Charles E. Martin

In the last year or so, Mississippi College has received an extraordinary amount of bad publicity, and this concerns us greatly. One concern is that those not close to the school may get the impression that everything is going wrong. In fact, a great many things are going right.

A few of our students play in intercollegiate athletics, and serious problems arose with the administration of these programs. These problems were discovered, reported, and corrected by Mississippi College people, and the facts were publicized widely. Now we are in the news again. Questions have arisen about the handling of some special funds that represent a tiny fraction of the total college operation. Both of these problems exist, they have been faced, and corrective actions have been taken as soon as circumstances would allow.

But, just for the record, let's remember that, serious though these matters are, neither of them is very close to the heart of why Mississippi College exists and what it does. The purpose of a Baptist college is to provide an education of high quality permeated by the essence of the Christian faith. Everything else that we do is important only to the extent that it contributes to that basic pur-

pose. It would be unfortunate if we let some problems at the fringes distract all our attention from the essential ministry of Christian education to which so many faculty and staff members have dedicated their professional lives.

Some excerpts from an anonymous letter received last spring may illustrate the point: "I just wanted to write a short letter and tell you 'Thank You' for your astronomy course and the enthusiasm you gave to the class... through your course I found that the God I had always learned was personal, perfectly loving, and perfectly forgiving was the same God that is actively steering every chemical, biological, and physical reaction in the universe every second. All it takes is a day of sitting and watching the wind blow, the birds flying, people going about their business, and every other event taking place — and in the light of what I've learned in your class it all becomes incredible, to put it lightly.

"I honestly don't know why I got so much out of your course, because I'm sure a lot of people take astronomy and are just glad to get through, but for some reason it was the most spiritually helpful course I could've taken. I can honestly say that my relation-

ship with God is much more meaningful now and full of wonder than it's ever been, and you have been an instrument in it arriving there. Thank you for being willing to teach the truth behind the facts."

There are many letters of appreciation, of course, including one from a transfer from another institution. It is a long, glowing letter, but a few sentences may catch the spirit of it: "From that first day at registration I realized that I was surrounded by a most unusual place. Everyone was so polite. Everyone was so interested. Everyone was so sincere.... Instructors were available with a reverential yet casual purpose to aid in the registration process of picking the correct classes. I feel resolute in the belief that this minor example is the perfect metaphor to describe academic life at Mississippi College.... Coursework at Mississippi College is not easy. On the contrary, I found the classwork to be the most challenging, and some of the outside projects to be almost impossible. However, with the extra classroom help of the aforementioned excellent teaching staff,... I managed to graduate with minimal distinctive honors.... I came to MC to get an education. I left MC with so much more."

A brief history of MC

1826 — Hampstead Academy instituted in Clinton to provide education for "our children." Name changed in 1827 to Mississippi Academy, and again in 1830 to Mississippi College, with authority to grant degrees.

1842 to 1851 — The college was operated by the Presbyterian Church. In 1850 the college was placed under the sponsorship of the Mississippi Baptist Convention. William Carey Crane was named president.

1852 — \$102,800 was endowment raised by Baptists to give the school financial respectability.

1861 — Many of the students and three professors marched away as the "Mississippi College Rifles."

1865-1993 — Graduates of MC have been governor of Mississippi and at least two other states. Legislators, judges, diplomats, top executives of national and international corporations are graduates. MC graduates served as president or professors in more than 100 colleges; three graduates served consecutively for 50 years as president of the Baptist Sunday School Board. MC has sent more graduates to the mission field than any other Baptist college except Baylor. Preacher graduates are found from Argentina to Alaska; and 80-85% of its pre-medical students are admitted to medical school each year. Nationally, that figure is below 50%.

"When you drink the water, don't forget who dug the well." We will honor those who have faithfully sacrificed to begin and continue Mississippi College by being faithful over the stewardship given unto us.

— GH

These little human stories, and the countless others like them, do not make headlines, but they do serve as reminders that education in the spirit of Jesus the Teacher is alive and well at Mississippi College, and those people who have dedicated their lives to the

high calling of Christian education are indeed workers that need not be ashamed, rightly dividing the Word of truth. Maybe Mississippi Baptists deserve to be reassured of that.

Martin is MC vice president for academic affairs.

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MC's Nobles resigns Aug. 3, accused of embezzlement

W. Lewis Nobles Jr. resigned Aug. 3 as president of Mississippi College amid a board of trustees-initiated inquiry into the handling of donations to the college. Rory Lee, vice-president for Institutional Advancement, will serve as acting president until the board of trustees selects a successor.

Nobles, 67, who has led the Mississippi Baptist school for 25 years, has been charged with fraud and embezzlement by Mississippi College. Details have slowly emerged since Nobles' sudden resignation Aug. 3.

For the last 15 years, Nobles allegedly had received contributions from various donors. Mississippi College has charged Nobles with depositing these funds into accounts for Nobles' personal use. Nobles evaded discovery by intercepting such contributions before

they reached the college's accounts.

When confronted, Nobles maintained the monies were spent for proper MC purposes. Fake checks, forged bank statements, even a "Paid" bank stamp, were uncovered in Nobles' office after his resignation. The exact amount of funds is not yet known, but it could be more than \$3 million.

In a telephone conversation at press time Aug. 10 with Baptist Record Editor Guy Henderson, Nobles said, "What has been put forth thus far is only allegations, and only one side of the controversy has been presented. In our jurisprudence system, a man is innocent until proven guilty."

"I'm not trying to be antagonistic, but just to be patient until the full story is out," he said.

The civil action suit alleges fraud, embezzlement, and breach of Nobles' fiduciary duties to the college.

Questions about those monies were first raised in a staff review of donations, Greenville businessman and trustee chairman Harry Vickery was quoted as saying in an Aug. 5 story in *The Clarion-Ledger*, Jackson's daily newspaper.

Nobles had come under fire from some college supporters in January when the football program was placed on NCAA probation for four years and was stripped of its only Division II national championship, from the 1989 season.

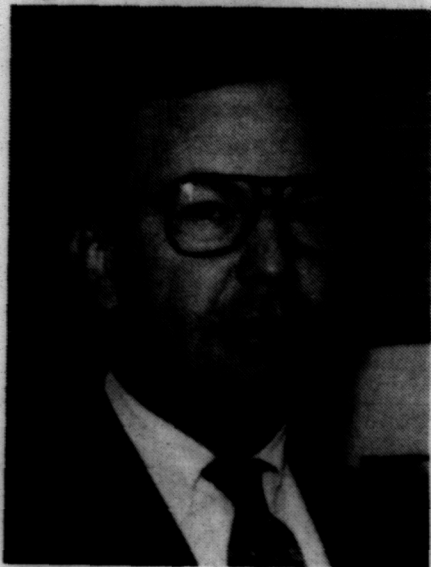
Among the violations were grants-in-aid awarded to 98 players during the 1989-90 academic year, equaling 80.21 scholarships,

according to the NCAA, twice as many as the 40 allowed by the association. *The Clarion-Ledger* reported.

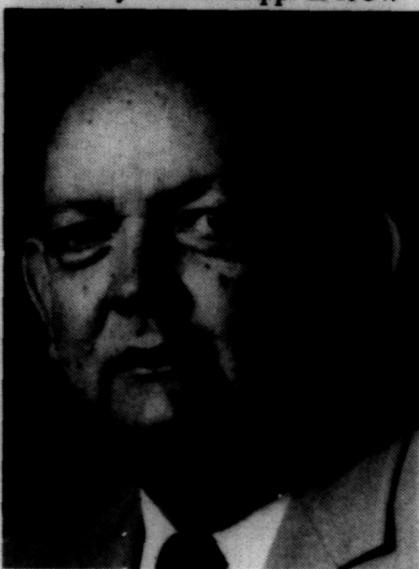
Lee, the acting president, said, "Our constituents should be assured that the college is in exceptionally sound condition, both financially and academically. The future holds great promise."

Lee is a 20-year veteran of the Mississippi College administrative staff. He had served as Dean of Men and Dean of Admissions prior to assuming the position of vice-president for Institutional Advancement.

A native of Prentiss, Lee earned the bachelor of arts and master of education degrees from Mississippi College in 1971 and 1973, respectively. He received a doctoral degree in higher education from the University of Mississippi in 1984.



Lee



Nobles

Chronology of Events

Aug. 3 Lewis Nobles resigns as trustees make inquiries about funds given to MC by donors.
Aug. 4 Harry Vickery, trustee chairman from Greenville, declares that outside accountants have been employed to review the donations that were handled by Nobles.

Aug. 7 Early Morning: W. Lewis Nobles petitioned the Hinds County Chancery Court for a Temporary Restraining Order (TRO) against MC to allow Nobles to remove from the offices of Mississippi College personal possessions, personal records, and financial records in his former office.

9:45 a.m.: A TRO was granted without notice to Mississippi College. The TRO ordered the college and its representatives to return to Nobles his "personal possessions" — including a brown brief case and personal documents within it, personal checkbooks of Nobles, and two other brief cases and personal papers within those.

Approximately Noon: MC officials were notified of the TRO. Because Noble's former office, and in particular the brief cases mentioned in the TRO, had already been examined and found to contain "receipts" for gifts signed by Nobles which the college had never received, the college could not agree to return these documents. Thus the college immediately sought a hearing on the TRO.

2:45 p.m.: MC filed its own complaint and was granted a hearing. MC sought a TRO freezing the assets of Nobles. The original TRO was modified.

It was agreed and granted that all of the papers and other records would remain in the control of the college's accountants conducting an audit, but Nobles could obtain personal effects such as medicines from the office.

It was also granted that all assets of Nobles were frozen, including bank accounts, securities, brokerage accounts, real estate, and other assets.

Judge Chet Dillard allowed Nobles to retain approximately \$27,000 in cash which had been found in the office, because he claimed ownership and because the college could later assert a claim to the funds if the cash could be traced and proven to belong to the college. The court also noted that, since all of Nobles' assets had been frozen, he would need the cash for living expenses and to retain a lawyer.

First Church, Jackson, leads Mississippi 1992 home missions offering

ATLANTA (HMB) — First Church, Jackson, leads Mississippi churches for 1992 contributions to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for Home Missions, according to figures released by the Home Mission Board.

First Church gave \$73,597 last year to the offering which totalled \$37,615,371 nationwide, a 5.9% increase over the previous year.

The other top nine contributing churches from Mississippi were First Church, Columbus, \$30,178; Broadmoor Church, Jackson, \$26,381; First Church, Brookhaven, \$21,484; First Church, Brandon, \$19,617; Parkway Church, Jackson, \$17,634; First Church, Vicksburg, \$16,982; Calvary Church, Tupelo, \$16,536; First Church, Gulfport, \$14,357; and Alta Woods

Church, Jackson, \$14,170.

The top churches in per capita giving were Calvary Church, Gloster; Burch Hill Church, Jackson; Shiloh Church, Port Gibson; Sardis Church, Hazlehurst; New Hope Church, Calhoun City; Berwick Church, Liberty; Mantee Church, Mantee; Holmesville Church, McComb; Learned Church, Learned; and Shiloh Church, Big Creek.

"These churches serve as a model of excellence to other churches in the Southern Baptist Convention," said HMB President Larry L. Lewis.

The annual offering supports the work of nearly 5,000 home missionaries serving in all 50 states, American Samoa, the Caribbean, and Canada. All money received from the offering goes to the field.

Annuity Board assets show six percent gain first half of this year

CHARLESTON, S.C. (BP) — Total assets of the Annuity Board of the Southern Baptist Convention rose 6.8% in the first six months of 1993 to \$4.18 billion.

Trustees of the Dallas-based pension and insurance agency met Aug. 2-3 in Charleston, S.C., and heard reports of financial gains in the first half of the year in all areas of work.

Contributions of members and employers to individual retirement income accounts continued to rise. In six months, paid-in additions from all sources totaled \$104,922,659, a 3.4% increase over the same period in 1992.

Benefits paid to retirees continue to rise also, with six months' payments of \$66,259,989, exceeding the 1992 figure by 16.9%.

Earnings on investments tracked established goals or exceeded them, Annuity Board President Paul W. Powell reported.

"Total assets have grown at a rate of \$1.4 million a day for the past year," Powell noted. "This growth, which keeps us solidly in place as the second-largest church pension board in the world, moved us up one step to the 127th largest pension fund among all funds in the United States," he said.

While paying \$66.25 million to more than 24,000 annuitants, the Annuity Board also allocated relief monies provided by the Southern Baptist Cooperative Program and Adopt An Annuitant benefits provided by the board's own fund-raising activities.

At the Charleston meeting, the trustee Relief Committee considered 35 new applications for relief. Seven were approved for two-year monthly grants, two for three-month monthly grants, four for two-year expense grants and three

for one-time grants. Nineteen were declined for being outside guidelines. There are 1,167 annuitants receiving an extra \$50 each month through the Adopt An Annuitant program.

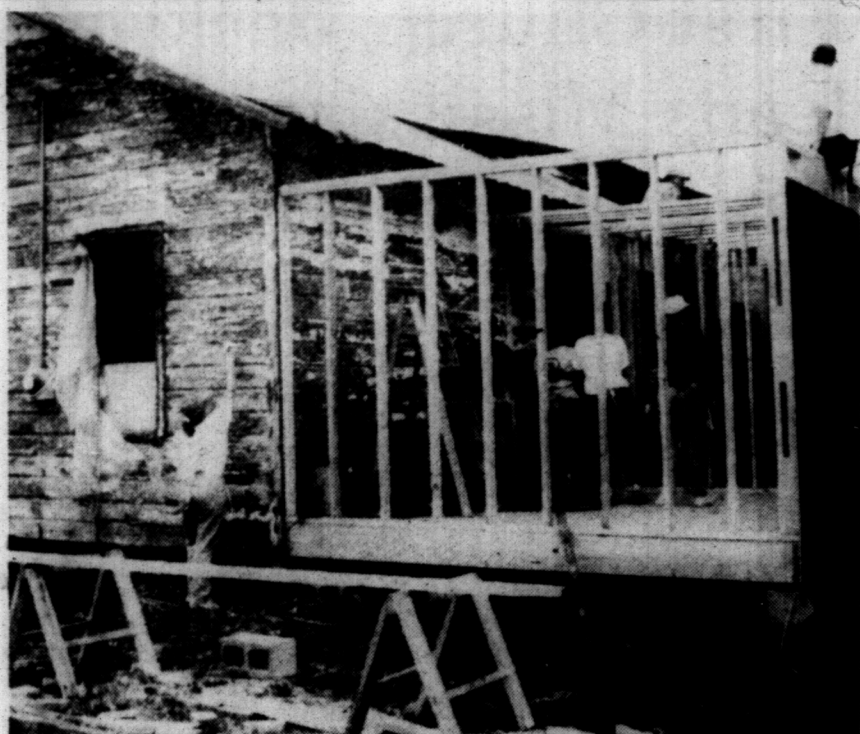
An "average" relief recipient is 78 years old with total monthly income of \$562 and expenses of \$691.

Mississippi native Wheat appointed by Home Board

ATLANTA (HMB) — Melody Wheat was appointed to mission service in July by the Home Mission Board. She will work in family and church service in Jackson, Tenn. Her husband, Tim, will be a church planter apprentice for Northbrook Church. A native of Picayune, she is a graduate of Union University in Jackson, Tenn.



Tim and Melody Wheat



World Changers from churches across the Southern Baptist Convention work to renovate an abandoned house in the small community of Darling in Quitman County. When construction and renovation are completed, a local family will move from their substandard home next door into the much-improved facility. (Photos by William H. Perkins Jr.)

Baptist young people make big difference in daily lives of poverty-stricken Delans

By William H. Perkins Jr.

Residents of Coahoma and Quitman counties probably thought they were being overrun by the bright-eyed, energetic young people armed with paint scrapers, hammers, and two-by-fours.

At least they were being invaded by friendly forces.

Nearly 300 youths and their leaders from 10 states, all part of the SBC Brotherhood Commis-

sion's World Changers program, descended on the two counties during the first week in August to help needy residents paint, weatherize, reroof, and otherwise repair their homes in one of the poorest areas of the state, according to Bobby Scott, project coordinator and youth minister at First Church, Horn Lake.

"I think World Changers will have a drastic impact on people living in substandard homes. They'll have a home that's greatly improved and much more livable," Scott said.

World Changers is a coeducational project of missions education and involvement where Baptist high school youths are encouraged to become personally involved in missions through construction and renovation work in communities where many of the residents live in poverty.

"I have nothing but praise for them. Every young person knew what they were supposed to do, and they worked hard," said M.C. Johnson, director of missions for North Delta Association.

Paul Harrell, director of the Brotherhood Department at the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, echoed Johnson's sentiments on the hard-working youths.

"There are few words to describe the feeling for having been involved in such a meaningful ministry. An evangelistic witness was presented by the young people to the families of each home, and unique relationships were established," Harrell said.

At least one profession of faith has resulted, he added.

For more information, contact World Changers, SBC Brotherhood Commission, 1548 Poplar Avenue, Memphis, TN 38104. Telephone: (901) 272-2461.



Robin Ware of Birmingham, Ala., applies a little muscle to loosen old paint on an outside wall of the Darling house, one of 24 projects in two counties undertaken by World Changers youth workers.

Yeltsin said to reject law restricting missionaries

MOSCOW (BP) — Russian President Boris Yeltsin refused Aug. 3 to sign a controversial new law restricting religious freedom, reportedly telling lawmakers to bring it into line with international human rights agreements.

In a meeting with the Russian Orthodox priest who led the committee that wrote the law passed by Parliament, Yeltsin specifically objected to a provision allowing Russian officials to bar foreign missionaries.

The lawmaker priest, Vyacheslav Polosin, kept up his ardent campaign for the law in its current form. On Aug. 4 he was quoted in *Pravda*, the national news service, as still supporting it.

Yeltsin has presented Parliament with proposed changes written by his own legal advisors. The extent of those changes is unknown at this point.

The law — which has inspired Western ire, opposition from the White House and a cross section of U.S. congressmen and threats to press for cutting off monetary aid — also gives the government power to declare certain groups

of Russian religious believers illegal.

Despite Yeltsin's action, many religious liberty experts believe he eventually will have to sign some form of the law to keep mainstream Russian Orthodox leaders happy.

The religion bill sailed through Parliament — dominated by Orthodox, nationalist, and com-

Despite Yeltsin's action, many religious liberty experts believe he eventually will have to sign some form of law to keep Orthodox leaders happy.

munist forces — with nearly no opposition July 14. To call it law, Russian lawmakers must vote for it twice more.

The law would give the Russian Orthodox Church favored status in the nation, possibly returning to government officials the right to open and close churches. The Orthodox Church, which claims 60 million members, considers itself the nation's true church by culture and heritage. In govern-

ment circles its voice is by far the most influential among religions. It has reacted bitterly to Western evangelical groups and others spreading a wide range of beliefs on Russian soil.

Western religious and human rights groups are calling Yeltsin's rejection of the law a victory — for now. Their enthusiasm is tempered by the knowledge of Russia's instability and the marriage between the mainstream Orthodox Church and communists in Parliament.

Once a communist and professing atheist, Yeltsin returned to the Orthodox Church and was baptized after he renounced communism and became president. But it is unknown whether his objections to the law stem from his personal beliefs or a desire to sustain reform and international favor.

Many Americans see Russia as having declared free thought, and they consider the dismantling of the Soviet Union and the reorientation of its secret police force as indications that authoritarian control has passed. But liberty watchers in the United States find scant evidence of the rule of law in Russia.

BSSB staff reductions likely after study of overhead costs

By Linda Lawson

Aug. 16-18 at Glorieta (N.M.) Conference Center.

"I received the report (overhead study) about 10 days ago. I am in the process of asking clarification questions and, in some instances, for more specific information," Draper told employees. "I hope to have the information today. Early next week, I will begin meeting with leadership of affected areas."

He said the study grew out of

the need to keep the board in a competitive position and maintain financial stability.

"We seem to have higher overhead costs than other similar companies. Therefore, it is important that we look for examples of duplication of effort and services that don't represent value to the board. This is part of what must be a constant process of review and fine-tuning of our structure, organization, and staff," he continued.

He said corporate overhead costs are centered in the non-revenue-producing areas of corporate services and finance and administration. Components include information systems, corporate market research, strategic planning, communications, production services, business and finance, facility management, and human resources.

Affected components presently include 346 full-time employees. The board currently employs 1,760 persons on a full-time basis.

Draper said similar efficiency studies are being instituted in the revenue-producing areas — church growth and programs and trade and retail markets. Results of those studies won't be finalized for several months, he said.

"Letting people go will be our last option," he said.

Lawson writes for BSSB.

Executive Committee says Cooperative Program gifts up for month, lag for year

NASHVILLE (BP) — Cooperative Program receipts for July surpassed last year by 1.05% but in spite of the increase the year's total remained 1.54% behind the previous year, according to Morris H. Chapman, president and chief executive officer of the SBC Executive Committee.

All gifts to the Southern Baptist Convention — Cooperative Program and designated — remained slightly below last year at the 10-month mark of the SBC fiscal year: \$237,478,143 in 1992-93 compared to \$240,351,807 in 1991-92, a 1.20% decrease.

Cooperative Program gifts for

July were up by \$118,861 over a year ago: \$11,491,306 compared to \$11,372,445. Designated gifts for the month were down slightly, .08%, at \$4,986,461 compared to \$4,990,613 in 1992.

Year-to-date Cooperative Program totals show 1992-93 behind the previous year by \$1,796,956: \$114,835,034 compared to \$116,631,990, or a 1.54% decrease.

For the Southern Baptist Convention's budget, \$11,683,366 is required each month to reach the year's total of \$116,833,662. The 1992-93 CP receipts are 1.71% below the budgeted figure for the year-to-date.

Call goes out for vols to help mop up areas in flooded Midwest

By William H. Perkins Jr.

Mississippi Baptists are being asked to provide 60 five-member crews for cleanup duty in the St. Louis, Mo., and Quincy, Ill. areas of the flood-devastated Midwest, according to the Brotherhood Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB).

Paul Harrell, Brotherhood director in Mississippi, said the call for volunteers is becoming urgent as floodwaters begin to recede from the estimated 20,000 homes affect-

possibly hepatitis to decrease the incidence of those diseases. Insurance coverage for the team should be discussed with sponsoring churches before making the trip, he added.

"Each team needs a pickup truck and a wheelbarrow. Bring as many cleaning supplies and cleanup equipment as possible, and a sump pump if you have access to one," he said.

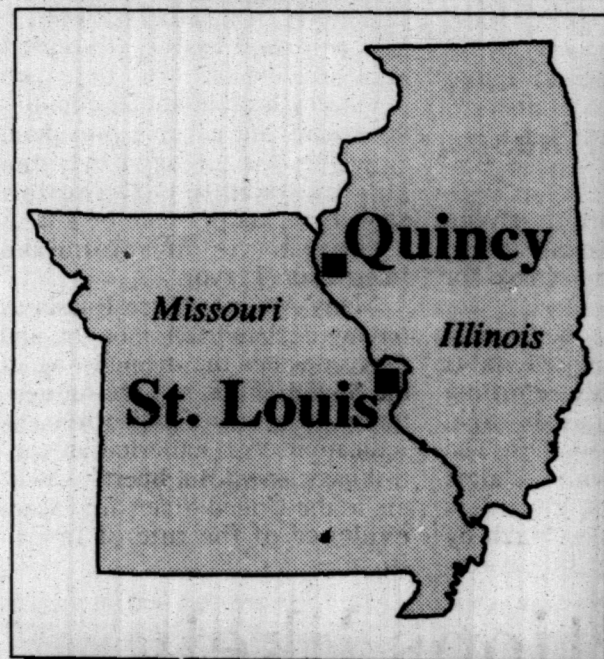
Supplies that are needed include disinfectant, bleach, detergent, mops and extra mopheads, brooms, gypsum wallboard, lumber, and nails. Equipment that is needed includes heavy-duty squeegees, square-nosed shovels, rubber boots, heavy-duty rubber gloves, chain saws, heavy-duty hoses, high-pressure nozzles, hammers, and saws.

Harrell stressed that each volunteer team must contact the Brotherhood Department as soon as possible with the team leader's name,

address, and telephone number so that the Mississippi Baptist effort can be effectively coordinated. The Brotherhood telephone number is (601) 968-3800, ext. 3935.

Monetary gifts are always needed, Harrell said, and donations can be sent to the Brotherhood Department, MBCB, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Be sure to designate the gift for "Midwest flood relief."

Harrell thanked Mississippi Baptists for their support of flood victims and relief workers, and Tim Yarbrough, offsite disaster relief coordinator for the SBC Brotherhood Commission, said, "Please pray for all our flood relief efforts and for the strength of our people who are working in situations that can change by the minute."



ed in St. Louis and Quincy.

"Should the weather cooperate by allowing the water to recede sufficiently, the target date for volunteer work is Aug. 13-15. Teams will arrive on Thursday afternoon, Aug. 12, and travel back to Mississippi on Monday, Aug. 16," Harrell said, adding that Aug. 20-22 has been set as the alternate date if the water does not recede.

Teams will sleep in churches, so volunteers should bring sleeping bags and personal items. Food will be provided by churches and disaster relief units, and each team should tentatively designate a member to assist with meals if that becomes necessary, he explained.

Harrell also suggested that each team member have current inoculations for tetanus, typhoid, and

Alta Woods hosts state choir leadership clinic

The Mississippi Baptist State Choir Leadership Clinic takes place Aug. 27-28, at Alta Woods Church, Jackson.

This clinic is for leaders of preschool, children's, and youth choirs. Cost is \$5 per person. No pre-registration is required.

Maryann Tyler of Roswell, Ga., will lead choir coordinators. Teresa Gilbreath of Culleoka, Tenn., will lead leaders of combined grades, 1-6. Carol Aultman of New Orleans, will lead leaders of younger chil-

dren's choirs. Kay Payton of Round Rock, Texas, will lead leaders of older children's choirs, and John Langworthy of Clinton will lead youth choir leaders.

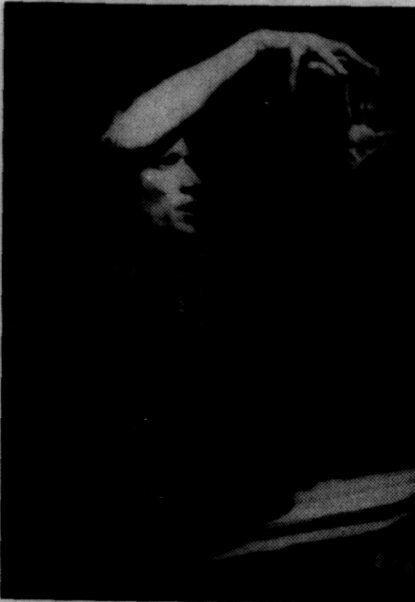
Study course credit will be given in all age groups.

The clinic opens at 6:30 p.m. Aug. 27 after registration at 6. It concludes at 12:30 the next day.

This meeting is sponsored by the Church Music Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

Thursday, August 12, 1993

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 5



Youth Night

Over 18,000 young people (below) turned out Aug. 30 for 1993 Youth Night at Mississippi Memorial Stadium in Jackson. The first-time use of the stadium resulted in the largest single-event Baptist gathering in state convention history. Enthusiastic fans (top right) cheered as Christian music group Truth (right) performed just before the message delivered by youth evangelist David Busby (above). Organizers are now following up on the 500-plus decisions made that night by contacting local churches to shepherd the new Christians in their spiritual walk. (Photos by William H. Perkins Jr.)



Texas conservatives at odds over how to advance cause

By Toby Druin

DALLAS (ABP) — Baptist conservatives in Texas are at odds about how to advance their cause, and the result is two organizations pursuing different objectives.

Both groups want the Baptist General Convention of Texas and its agencies to reflect a more conservative viewpoint.

But while the newer of the two organizations, Baptists with a Mission, will take a political approach — attempting to cut funding for Baylor University and promoting "a slate of biblical conservatives" for the convention's elected offices — the older Texas Baptist Conservative Fellowship will limit its activism to prayer.

Randy McDonald, president of the Texas Baptist Conservative Fellowship, said the two groups'

goals "are not compatible."

Ernest Gregory, a San Antonio physician who heads Baptists with a Mission, disagreed, saying the two groups have the same goals, "but we are too aggressive for them."

The group hired Perry Ellis, former director of the Conservative Fellowship, to coordinate speaking engagements, Gregory told the Baptist Standard of Texas.

The anti-Baylor strategy, which was revised from an earlier more drastic plan, would reduce BGCT funding for any state convention agency or institution that reduces BGCT control — which Baylor did two years ago with convention approval.

The cuts would be in proportion to the loss of BGCT control. For

Baylor, which now allows the BGCT to elect only one fourth of its regents, Texas Baptist funding would drop from \$4 million a year to \$1 million.

The Baylor issue is one key area of disagreement between the two groups. Conservatives, led by the Conservative Fellowship, failed to block BGCT approval of Baylor's revised governing structure in 1991.

"We will not get involved in the Baylor controversy," said McDonald of the Conservative Fellowship. "That is not an issue with us. What we are trying to do is get out of the political mess and back to just conservatives participating in the convention."

Druin is associate editor, Texas BAPTIST STANDARD.

Silent treatment is key to China music ministry

By Donald D. Martin

XIAN, China (BP) — Conductor Phillip Posey believes the key to filling China's concert halls with music is silence.

"Music carries so little cultural baggage. There's something in music that connects us all," said Posey, guest conductor of the Shaanxi Symphony Orchestra. Posey, 56, is a music volunteer with Cooperative Services International, a Southern Baptist aid organization.

But he found connecting with Chinese listeners isn't always easy in a country known for its boisterous audiences. Posey's first concert there unnerved him.

"The atmosphere of the performance was dismal," he said. "They talked, they smoked, and children ran all over the place. The musicians had long since resigned themselves to this, but I could see it was still hard on them. I decided the orchestra deserved better."

Posey, on sabbatical from his directorship of instrumental studies at William Jewell College in Liberty, Mo., had inherited an orchestra seasoned more in perseverance than skill.

Orchestra members, whose ages range from 21 to over 70, had worked more than six months without a conductor. They rehearsed on aging instruments in

a drafty, warehouse-like building in a city known for harsh winters.

"I wanted to help develop a deep sense of professionalism that comes only from pride in successful performances," he explained.

For his debut with the 75-piece orchestra, Posey tripled the time he would normally prepare with a professional group. But at his first concert in the meeting hall of a local factory, the polished overtures drowned in the commotion and conversations of the audience.

Despite his guest status in a foreign country, Posey decided he would insist on silence from the audience in a prepared statement at the orchestra's next performance.

When an orchestra member later read the statement, he assured Posey it wouldn't be needed because the next performance

was at the university's own music conservatory.

Despite the assurances, Posey tucked the statement into his pocket before the concert. He needed it sooner than he expected: after just a few bars of the opening movement, dozens of students barged

into the 700-seat hall, demanding to hear the concert although they had no tickets.

In the confusion, Posey waved his arms and cut off the music.

"I stopped the overture," he recalled. "The orchestra was in absolute shock. I then walked off the stage and found the woman that had read the opening announcements and gave her my statement."

Before she could respond, two university officials in the audience stood up and began shouting at the students, telling them to sit down and be quiet.

"You could have heard a pin drop," Posey recalled with awe. "But by now the orchestra was in total shock. I walked back to the front and quietly reassured them. They looked

around and saw that nobody was talking. I raised my hands and we started to play — and they played their hearts out. For the rest of the evening they played beautifully, without the slightest flaw."

More than music was created that evening, Mrs. Posey said.

"When Phil refused to go on until everyone was quiet, it gave the orchestra members a sense of pride," she said. "They saw that he was willing to take risks for them. And once the audience quieted, the orchestra could hear how good they sounded."

A new confidence took hold of them.

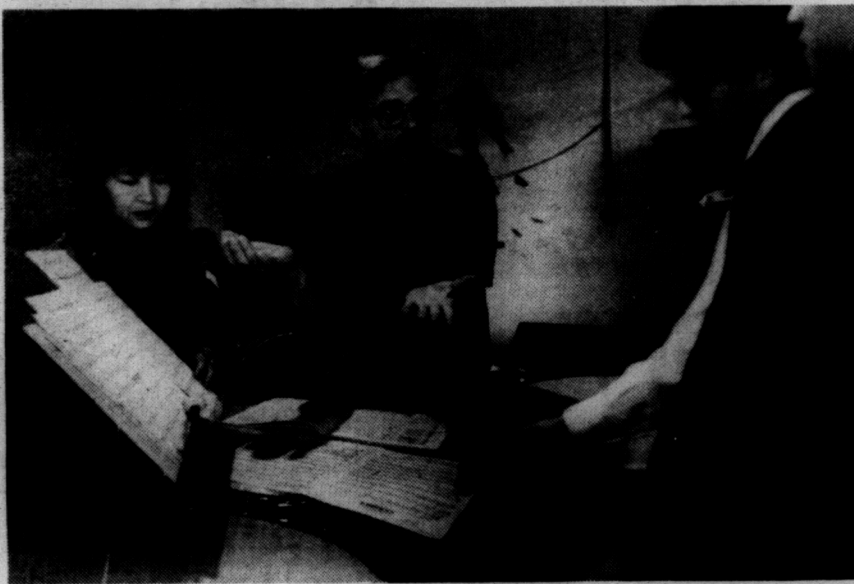
"They were absolutely beside themselves with excitement," Posey said. "There was an enthusiasm you don't always see on the professional level."

Other rough spots came during the Poseys' six-month term, which ended in July, but difficulties didn't alter their commitment, Mrs. Posey said.

"We often felt like just going home. But the Lord didn't send us over here for nothing. We always felt this has got to work," she said.

And in China, a country often void of any Christian witness, their quiet commitment speaks scores.

Martin writes for FMB.



Phillip Posey (second from left) practices timing with two percussionists from the Shaanxi Symphony Orchestra in Xian, China. Fellow orchestra member Wang Ting (left) doubles as interpreter for Posey's musical instructions to the pair. Posey, on sabbatical from William Jewell College in Liberty, Mo., and his wife, Ann, were in China to conduct and teach music as part of their assignment with Cooperative Services International, the Southern Baptist aid organization. (BP photo by Warren Johnson)

Devotional

Floods and dams

By Kate Abernethy

During the past couple of weeks we have watched the Midwest fight and, for the most part, lose a battle with the flood waters of the rivers. The dams were weakened by all the flood water and people keep a constant vigil trying to keep the dams from breaking.

Our faith is like a dam; it protects us from the destructive power of the world around us. Unfortunately, sometimes we neglect our "dam" and don't even do regular maintenance on it. We don't even notice it until we have to depend on it. Then we find that it is weakened. We might realize our error and try to shore up our "dam" during the emergency. If it holds, hopefully we will remember to do the extensive maintenance that is needed. If it doesn't hold, if the pressure is too great for our weakened faith, then it breaks and is washed away. But later we will find that the foundation is still there. Like the people of the Midwest must rebuild the dams in order to continue living, our "dam" of faith must be rebuilt and hopefully properly maintained in the future.

Abernethy is a member of Fairview Church, Columbus.

Besieged FMB trustee encourages missionaries

MANILA, Philippines (BP) — A Foreign Mission Board trustee accused of moral wrongdoing told Southern Baptist missionaries in the Philippines to hang on when discouragement comes.

In March a student's parent accused Rodney Duncan of North Pole, Alaska, of soliciting pornographic material from her son. She also wrote a letter about Duncan to the Fairbanks daily newspaper accusing him of making sexual advances toward male students. Duncan denied any wrongdoing. Police investigated, but criminal charges were never filed. Duncan was permanently fired by the school board in a 5-1 vote.

Duncan told missionaries the only charges the school board could verify against him during a four-day closed hearing stemmed from the fact that he shared his Christian faith "while in the employment of the school system."

Hundreds of students, past and present, rose to Duncan's defense during the ordeal as well as many in the community at large. He acknowledged times when he was discouraged but said he learned to depend on God, not himself.

Duncan has repeatedly received awards and recognition, including 1992 "teacher of the year" at the high school and a listing in "Who's Who in Teaching."

CBF reference thrown out —

Historical Commission revises pamphlet

By Art Toalston

NASHVILLE (BP) — The Historical Commission has deleted a statement in one of its pamphlets, at the request of the SBC Executive Committee, mentioning the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship.

The deletion was authorized by the Historical Commission's administrative committee in response to a recommendation adopted by the Executive Committee June 14.

The Executive Committee asked the Historical Commission to "cease to distribute" the pamphlet until the commission "deletes any reference" to the CBF, an organization not affiliated with the SBC founded by Baptist moderates opposed to the conservative direction of the SBC.

At issue was a sentence in a Historical Commission pamphlet, "Who Are Southern Baptists?" The pamphlet is one of eight released in January in a new "Understanding Southern Baptists" series.

A new sentence in the pamphlet now reads, "Churches also support Southern Baptist causes through special offerings, designated gifts and other channels."

The deleted sentence read: "Some churches also give money for missions, education, and other causes through such channels as the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship."

According to Lynn E. May Jr., the commission's executive director-treasurer, the administrative committee took three actions:

— Agreed to comply with the Executive Committee request.

— Authorized the agency's staff to print 40,000 copies of the revised pamphlet at a cost of approximately \$1,800.

— Decided to study the issues involved in the matter and prepare a response to the Executive Com-

mittee by its September meeting in Nashville. May said Aug. 2 the committee is still in the process of preparing that response.

May said the Historical Commission ceased distribution of the pamphlet in question June 17.

Toalston writes for Baptist Press.



Bible Drill winner

RIDGECREST, N.C. — Wendy Dunn, right, of First Church, Hattiesburg, practices for a Bible Drill demonstration with other state convention winners during Discipleship and Family Development Week at Ridgecrest (N.C.) Conference Center, July 17-23. Youth Bible Drill is a joint project of Baptist state conventions and the Baptist Sunday School Board. (BSSB photo by Jim Veneman)

HouseTops

What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light: and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the housetops. Matthew 10:27 NAS

August 12, 1993

HouseTops is a supplement to the **Baptist Record** and is produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

PRAYERGRAM

PRAY for Baptist representative Gary White as he serves as head coach of a basketball team on the island of Cyprus. Pray that the light of Christ will shine through to touch many lives with whom Gary comes in contact.

PRAY for Baptist Christians and their leaders throughout Eastern Europe, as they are faced with an "invasion" of Americans and Europeans from many different denominations, sects and movements. All of these may have good intentions but the result of such an influx is great confusion and, at times, an over dependence on sporadic outside assistance from foreigners.

PRAY that Mexican Baptists will reach their goal of 2,000 self-supporting churches by the year 2000. Partnerships between stateside conventions or associations and Mexican associations are proving to be effective methods of strategy and church planting.

PRAY for Henry Blackaby and the Prayer for Spiritual Awakening emphasis of the Home Mission Board. Pray for the following conferences that are to take place soon: Western launch of new material, "A Fresh Encounter: God's Pattern for Revival and Spiritual Awakening," FBC, Euliss, Texas, Aug. 30-31, 1993; and Eastern launch of new material, "A Fresh Encounter: God's Pattern for Revival and Spiritual Awakening," Ridgecrest Conference Center, Sept. 13-14, 1993.

PRAY for Helen Oates, chaplain of the Wyoming Women's Center. She asks for prayer for her ministry that has been under spiritual attack recently.

Pray for Nona Walker, a US-2 missionary who will be going from Yazoo City to St. Louis, Mo., to serve two years in church planting in multihousing. Pray for her as she prepares to move in August. Pray for Vivian Hite, her supervisor.

PRAY for Hosea Carminio Osequera, a 13-year-old Honduran boy, who was brought to the Baptist Medical Center in Jackson, Miss. on June 25 after being run over by a truck on June 9. He has multiple grave medical problems. The Brotherhood Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board is sponsoring this project.

PRAY for the Mississippi Baptist Chemical Dependency Center outpatient facility located in Starkville. Treatments for adolescents and adults at the Starkville are managed and administered by the the Mississippi Baptist Chemical Dependency Center, Jackson.

PRAY for the Chinese Mission of FBC, Greenville, Miss. Thank God for Mrs. Chow, a Chinese grandmother who lives in a Greenville nursing home and was baptized in the whirlpool bath, seated in a lift chair within the bath. ■

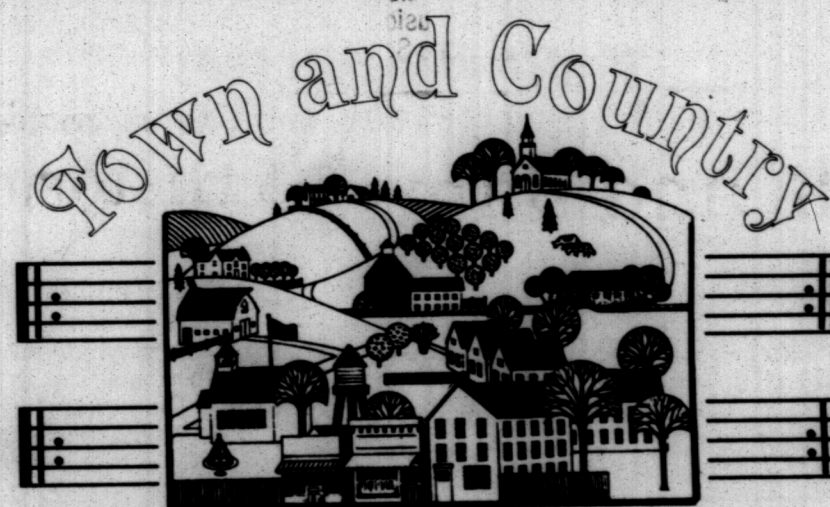
IT IS NOT TOO EARLY!

Are you planning a mission project for 1994? Undecided? Now is the time to begin planning. Budget time is just ahead for some churches and mission projects need to be included. Associations also may have budgets planned to begin in the Fall and now is the time to include mission projects.

The Partnership Missions Office can help with projects for 1994. Requests from Zimbabwe, Alaska, and Honduras are being gathered and will be made available as soon as possible.

Meanwhile — individuals, churches and associations should contact

the Partnership Office soon to get on the list to receive the projects as available. Early awareness makes planning less hectic and more fulfilling. Write P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205 or call 968-3800. ■



CHURCH MUSIC CONFERENCES

Designed for all church music leadership but especially for those from churches with 150 members or less in Sunday School

SPRINGFIELD BAPTIST CHURCH MORTON, MISS.

Thursday, August 12, 1993

6:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Friday, August 13, 1993

9:00 a.m. - 12 Noon

BLACKWATER BAPTIST CHURCH DALEVILLE, MISS.

Friday, August 13, 1993

6:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Saturday, August 14, 1993

9:00 a.m. - 12 Noon

WASHINGTON BAPTIST CHURCH WASHINGTON, MISS.

Thursday, August 19, 1993

6:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Friday, August 20, 1993

9:00 a.m. - 12 Noon

LIBERTY BAPTIST CHURCH LIBERTY, MISSISSIPPI

Friday, August 20, 1993

6:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Saturday, August 21, 1993

9:00 a.m. - 12 Noon

Sponsored by the Church Music Department, MBCB

KEY LEADER SEMINAR '93

Baptist Convention Building
Jackson, Miss.
September 7, 1993
9:15 A.M.- 3:30 P.M.



TITLE:

"How To Mobilize Your Church To Grow"

AUDIENCE:

Pastor, Church Staff, Church Council Members

SEMINAR LEADER: TRUMAN BROWN, Special Worker with the Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville

Registration Fee: \$10

(includes cost of the book, *Reviving the Plateaued Church*, conference materials, and lunch.) Contact the Church Administration Pastoral Ministries Department at 968-3800 for registration details.

SECRETARIES TAKE NOTE

Two seminars for church, associational, and agency secretaries are planned for August. Both will take place at Camp Garaywa in Clinton.

The seminar for basic certification will be Aug. 24-27, and will be led by Jane Barrett. She is a certified church secretary instructor of the Baptist Sunday School Board and a secretary at Mt. Hebron West Baptist Church, Elmore, Ala.

The seminar for advanced certification will be Aug. 24-26 and led by Glenda Posey. She is a certified church secretary instructor for the Baptist Sunday School Board and administrative assistant (education) at Summer Grove Baptist Church, Shreveport, La.

In the basic course, secretaries will learn who Southern Baptists are—belief, heritage, purpose, and organization. Course work includes "How to take charge of the paperwork—from membership rolls to filing systems," "Office communication skills, including correspondence, telephone, and promotion," and "Basic principles of a sound financial system."

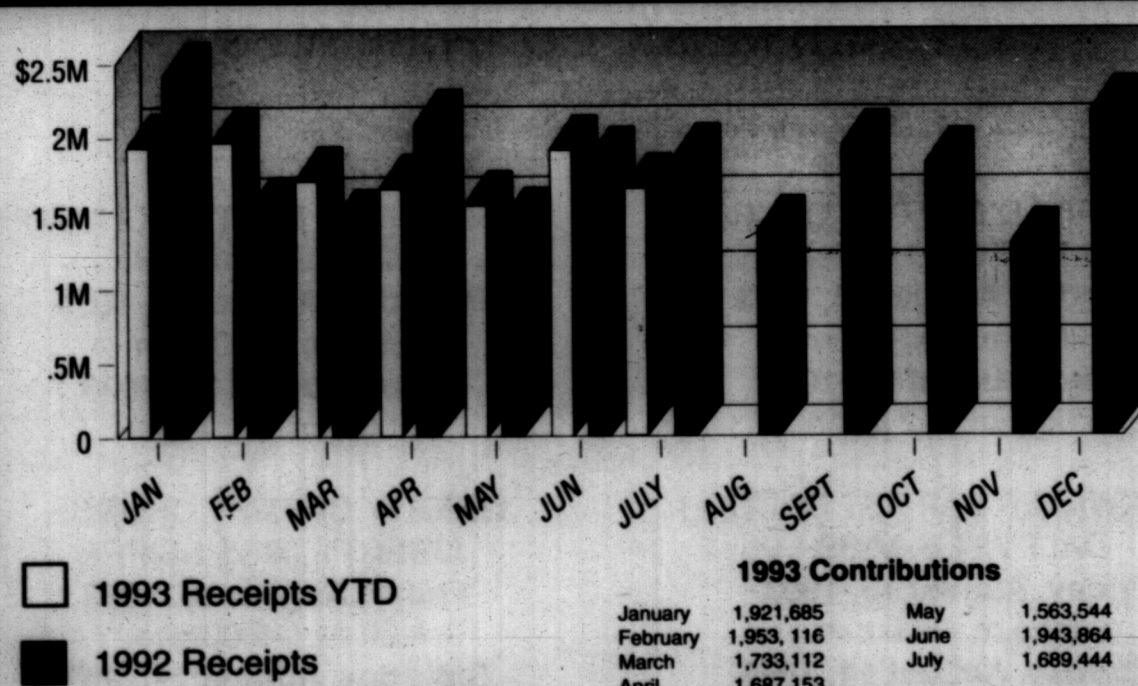
The advanced session offers two modules this year. The first is called "The Secretary: Partner in Growth." This shows ways a secretary can be alert to impact growth in all areas of church life. The second is "Office Management." This course helps identify how the secretary as office manager participates in planning, organizing, staffing, leading, and controlling.

The program of study is provided by the Sunday School Board.

Cost of the basic course is \$75. The advanced sessions are \$25 each. Three nights lodging and meals for the basic course is \$83. Two nights lodging and meals for the advanced course is \$57.

For details on costs and registration, call Ann Martin at the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, 968-3800. ■

COOPERATIVE PROGRAM RECEIPTS: 1993



Bad habits are hard to break

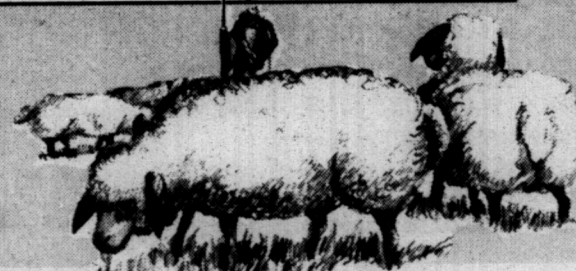
If certain behaviors become habitual, they can be disturbing and embarrassing. If they become addictions, they can be dangerous and even life threatening.

Christians need to know the signs of addiction and ways to help someone who is addicted. Dealing with Addiction, an Equipping Center module, will inform you of the physical, moral, and spiritual dimensions of addiction; reasons people become addicted; and effects of addiction. Through this six-session study you will discover the facts about addictions to alcohol, drugs, gambling, and food, while learning how to minister to addicts with whom you may come in contact.

Addiction is a powerful form of bondage. But with God's help, people can break free. Learn how by studying Dealing with Addiction (item 7206-72), available from Baptist Book Stores and from the Customer Service Center, 127 Ninth Avenue, North, Nashville, TN 37234; 1-800-458-2772. ■

Prayer Calendar for State Mission Offering

September 1993

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Lead ON Mississippi			1 Pray for all Baptists in Mississippi as we begin this time of emphasis on State Missions that we will personally pray, give and tell.	2 Pray for Helen Price as she evaluates the camp program at Camp Garaywa from last summer and plans for next summer.	3 Pray for small, rural associations that their leadership will help the churches to grow and reach out in their area.	4 Pray for Charles and Hazel Jones as they minister to prison employees and their families at Parchman.
5 Pray for more volunteers to help with Disaster Relief. Pray for those women involved with child care and counseling and other opportunities made possible by the new WMU RV in the fleet of Disaster Relief vehicles.	6 Pray that God will bless the efforts of those Choctaw Indian children presently enrolled in piano lessons. Thank Him for those who are now serving as pianists in their congregations.	7 Pray for Dan West at Central Hills as he oversees maintenance and repairs, plans for next summer's camp and hosts retreat groups at the camp during the off-season months.	8 Pray for churches that have been damaged by fires or natural disasters. Pray for those who are still rebuilding after the disasters of last year.	9 Pray that your church will meet its goal for the Margaret Lackey State Missions Offering. Pray that the state goal will be met.	10 Pray that the work of summer missionaries will keep on impacting lives as the year continues.	11 Pray for the members of the New Church Expansion Committee as they make decisions about the placement of mobile chapels and assisting churches in purchasing land for buildings.
12 Pray for Eugene Dobbs who leads the Ministry Office at the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.	13 Pray that more churches will be willing to begin sponsoring black Southern Baptist congregations across the state.	14 Pray for increased interest among associations in participating in the new jail ministry being developed.	15 Pray that God will call out the young men and women He wants to serve as counselors at Central Hills and Camp Garaywa next summer.	16 Pray that youth groups across the state will be willing to spend time doing mission work in their own towns and state, in apartment complexes, parks, and other places, as well as traveling out-of-state on mission trips.	17 Pray for Jim Didlake and Paul Harrell as they coordinate Disaster Relief work through the Brotherhood Department and for Marjean Patterson and Jan Cossitt as they involve women in Disaster Relief.	18 Pray for the International Students Conference at Camp Garaywa in October.
19 Pray that more churches will be willing to sponsor missions or satellite congregations.	20 Pray that churches might be willing to "adopt" an apartment complex that has asked for an ongoing ministry. Pray for Dottie Williamson as she coordinates the multi-family housing ministry.	21 Pray for Bob Dent, manager of Camp Garaywa, and the many groups that use the camp during the year.	22 Pray for those who will be attending the Black BSU Retreat in February. Pray also for Jessie Dawson, state coordinator for black student work on traditionally black campuses.	23 Pray for National Baptist Women as they are trained for missions work.	24 Pray for wisdom for churches that face financial problems with building debt or salary needs.	25 Pray for Bill Causey as he leads the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board as executive director-treasurer.
26 Pray for Neron Smith, Dick Brogan and Jim Booth, consultants in the Cooperative Missions Department, who are involved in many areas of work benefiting from our state missions offering.	27 Pray for more black student involvement and leadership in the BSUs on traditionally black campuses.	28 Pray for inmates at Parchman and in jails across Mississippi who may be ministered to by Mississippi Baptists.	29 Pray that the Lord will show you how He wants you to become personally involved in missions in Mississippi.	30 Pray in thanksgiving for the work of Mississippi Baptists and that we will continue to "lead on" in the years ahead.		

Robert Wynn Netterville, Jr. Cooperative Program Champion

by Debbie Baird Buie

This has been a summer of floods and flood stories. Here's one more story involving a flood. This flood doesn't involve rain or uncontrollable rivers, but a flood of giving to a lost world.

That's how Southwestern Seminary student Robert Netterville sees the Cooperative Program and its importance, not just to world evangelization, but to every little church in the Southern Baptist Convention. "I believe that it is the best method devised in which small Baptist churches can contribute to the evangelization of the world," he says.

"The Cooperative Program allows the local church to



fulfill the Great Commission," he says. "One drop of water will not relieve a drought, but many drops combined can cause a flood. I want the church that I serve [someday] to be a part of flooding the world with the Gospel of Jesus Christ."

Netterville, a Vicksburg native, accepted Jesus Christ at Bowmar Baptist and many years later was ordained and licensed by Woodlawn Baptist there. From 1979-87 he worked for a plastics firm, but in 1986 the Lord began dealing with him about the ministry. At first he thought it would be in music, which he dearly loves, but later realized his calling as a pastor.

"I ran from this call for two years, moving to Ohio trying to escape God's call, but to no avail," he says. In 1988, he and his wife, the former Linda McEwen, also of Vicksburg, determined to follow God. They moved to Clinton so he could attend Mississippi College.

"It was there I first experienced the cooperative giving of Mississippi Baptists," he says. "The Board of Ministerial Education of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

provided financial aid throughout my education." Scholarships and awards given by Mississippi Baptists also helped fund his years there.

Upon graduation the Netterville's moved to Arlington, Texas, to begin Robert's seminary education. Once again the Cooperative Program made his preparation for the ministry possible. "I have received scholarships from the Mississippi Baptist Foundation which have helped meet the cost of the matriculation fee (tuition). Without this help I could not have attended seminary," he says.

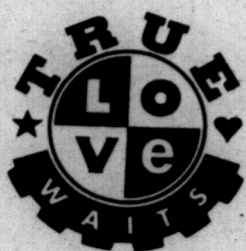
"Mississippi Baptists have much to be proud of in their seminaries. It is important for them to be aware that the money they give to the Cooperative Program really works," he says.

Being on the receiving end of the Cooperative Program, Netterville never doubts its ability to change and equip lives for Christ. He eagerly awaits the opportunity he will have as pastor to teach his congregation of their responsibility to support the work of God for the bless-

continued on back

True Love Waits

By Sean Keith, youth consultant, Sunday School Department



TRUE LOVE WAITS, a national campaign for sexual abstinence among teenagers, is causing a lot of families, churches, and denominations to take seriously the challenge to remain sexually pure until marriage.

In society today, teenagers are learning confusing messages about their sexuality, and to many it is detrimental. The safe sex message our society promotes is in direct conflict with God's message of abstinence. It is time for the family, the church, and our convention to take a stand, for the well being of our children and to promote a biblical sense of sexuality to a sin-sick society.

This is a challenge to every church to promote and encourage the "True Love Waits" campaign to the families of teenagers.

The first step is to encourage parents to sit down with their teens and challenge them to make a commitment to sexual purity until marriage. If parents are not willing to lead in this commitment, then other adults in the church need to be willing to step forward and assist those teens who are willing.

Each teenager is encouraged to sign a commitment card stating their

commitment to sexual purity. The next step is for the church to plan and conduct a worship service to celebrate the commitments these teenagers have made. Following that, every association needs to plan an event to honor the teens and churches participating in such a pledge.

At each level, these same commitment cards are forwarded to the next event. Then on Dec. 27-28, at the Youth Evangelism Conference at Mississippi College, all the commitment cards will be displayed from churches all over Mississippi.

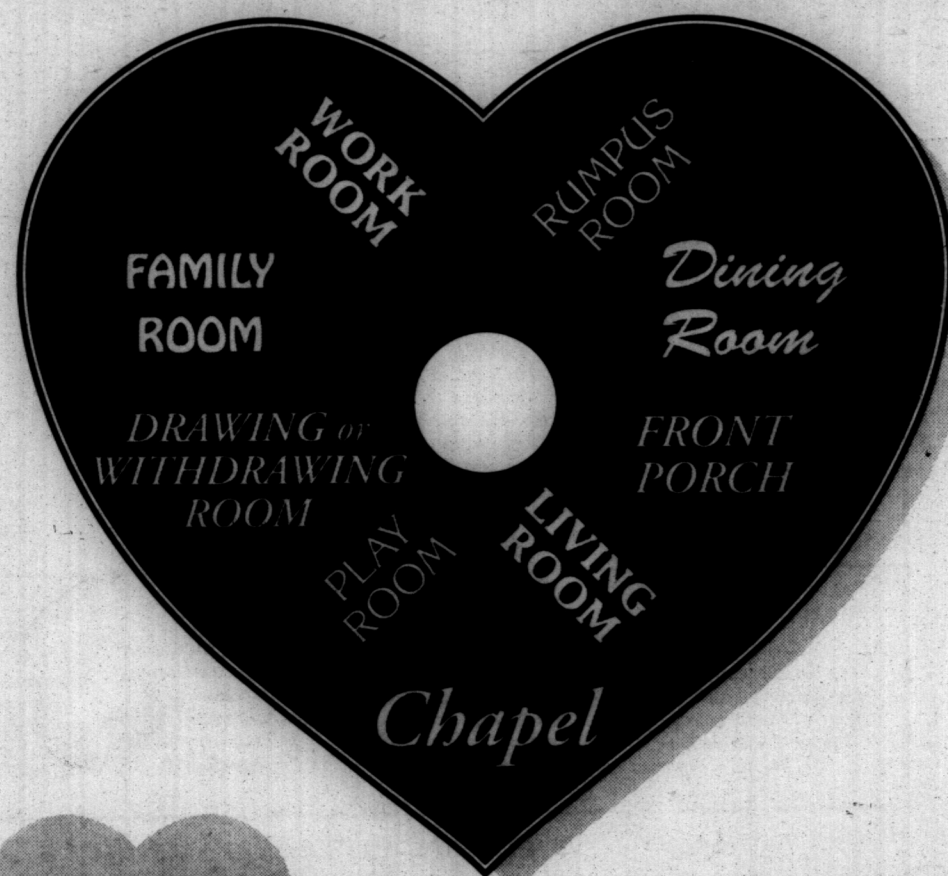
This national campaign will culminate in June of 1994 at the Southern Baptist Convention in Orlando, where 100,000-plus teenagers are expected to have committed to sexual purity until marriage, symbolized by a field of commitment cards.

This event has caught on. Several other denominations have joined in and plan an interdenominational rally in Washington, D.C., on July 29, 1994, at "DE '94." God has great things in store for those who will choose to wait. Help spread the word. For more information, call me at 968-3800. Packets are available at \$3 (one per church).

Remember, this is not just about taking a stand, or sending a message to society—this is for our kids. Let's remember that when they sign that card and take a stand. Even more so, let's be there when one of them fails. ■

Church Renewal Retreat

Redecorate Your Life – Your Heart, Christ's Home



Central Hills Baptist Retreat
Kosciusko, Mississippi
September 17-18, 1993

Sponsored by
BROTHERHOOD DEPARTMENT

MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION BOARD

"Helping to Bring Mississippi and the World to Jesus"

The Church Renewal Retreat will be a time to get away from the hustle and bustle of the routine daily life, to spend time apart with yourself, others, and God. To equip and awaken Christians to live their faith in their church and in the marketplace.

A Winning Season



STATE CHOIR LEADERSHIP CLINIC

• Preschool • Children • Youth

Alta Woods BC, Jackson
August 27-28, 1993

Sponsored by the
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board
Church Music Department

Netterville, continued from inside

ings they will both give and receive.

"Tithing, both of one's talents and finances should be encouraged by the pastor. I suppose that I feel strongly on this issue because the Bible teaches that we are to give back to God a portion of what he has given to us," he says, referring to Malachi 3:8-12 and 2 Cor. 8:1-5.

"As a pastor I will encourage the people to give...to spread the Gospel to those in the state, nation and world. I will encourage them to give of their talents in the local church and provide finances necessary to take the Gospel to the local community," Netterville says.

"When one supports the Cooperative Program he or she supports many (means) available to Baptists to express God's love to a world in need of that love. (It helps churches) find more effective means of ministering and meeting the needs of the people.

"It is beyond reason," Netterville says, "how one could be a Southern Baptist and not support the Cooperative Program. It is the best thing we have going for us." ■

Church plan medical rates will not go up Jan. 1, Annuity Board says

CHARLESTON, S.C. (BP) — Trustees of the Annuity Board of the Southern Baptist Convention declared there will be no increase in the rates for the Church Comprehensive Medical Plan in the first six months of 1994.

The improved financial strength of the comprehensive medical plan joined reports that included growth in retirement plan contributions and earnings, benefits

paid, and growth in endowment gifts as trustees met in Charleston, S.C.

Paul W. Powell, board president, said, "I am delighted management could make the medical plan recommendation and the trustees enthusiastically approved holding the rates. Though the national trend in health care cost predicts a 20% increase in overall cost next year, we'll hold the line."

Rates in the medical plan were last raised July 1, 1992, meaning the Church Comprehensive Medical Plan will go two full years at the same rate. Better claims experience and effective use of managed care procedures are credited with precluding a rate increase. A decision concerning the rates for the last six months of 1994 will be made during the spring of the year.

HEALTHCARE

FOR THE RECORD

Baptist Establishes Restorative Care Hospital

'Hospital within a hospital' designed for patients needing extended acute care

Mississippi's health care pioneer, Mississippi Baptist Medical Center (MBMC), is introducing a new concept in health care to the state, unveiling The Restorative Care Hospital at Baptist in August 1993.

Designed for patients needing acute medical care during a prolonged recuperation period, The Restorative Care Hospital at Baptist is literally a hospital within a hospital.

Located on the fifth floor of the medical center, The Restorative Care Hospital is for patients who need multi-disciplinary, complex medical care which will require a hospital stay of more than 25 days. Patients in Baptist's Restorative Care Hospital require continual medical care but are stable enough to participate in therapy for up to three hours a day.

Unlike general acute care, which principally focuses on the short-term medical needs of a patient's condition, the emphasis of restorative care is on a team approach of extended acute

care in preparation for the patient's discharge to either a rehabilitation facility, a nursing home or to the patient's own home.

A stay at The Restorative Care Hospital may be appropriate for a patient requiring extended treatment due to multiple broken bones, a head injury or those requiring continual, advanced monitoring or the use of a ventilator. The hospital is designed and staffed in order to provide broad treatment programs while fostering a closely knit, personalized atmosphere for patients, families and MBMC health care professionals.

Christian Mission

Establishing a restorative care facility at Baptist is another way that MBMC demonstrates its Christian mission of healthcaring through provisions of services to the people of Mississippi. This new service will help MBMC patients and their families during long recoveries and transitional phases of their treatment.

For more information about Mississippi Baptist Medical Center or The Restorative Care Hospital at Baptist, write: Administration, 1225 North State Street, Jackson, MS 39202.



MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST MEDICAL CENTER

We're Healthcaring for the Whole Family



New church from small beginning

The Delay Road Church of Water Valley (Yalobusha Association) began as a mission endeavor in May 1992. From its early meetings in the home of Pastor Donald Miller, membership has grown to average 18 in Sunday School attendance. Organized in December 1992, the church now meets in a one-room garage. Members include, left to right: front row, Rhonda Miller, Jennifer Wilbourn, Jessica Wilbourn; middle row, B.J. Hollinger, Andy Hollinger, John Hollinger, Anya Bowles, Iris Kehoe, Chris Wilbourn, Wendy Hollinger; back row, Donald Miller, Marie Miller, Dewitt Kehoe, Louise Kehoe, Karen Hollinger, Katherine Martin.

U.S. Holocaust Museum film accused of violating First Amendment

A film continuously showing at the new United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C. has been charged with violating the First Amendment of the Constitution by a prominent Washington minister and broadcaster, who has appealed to Congress to put a stop to it.

Dale Crowley Jr., whose "King's Business" radio program airs six days a week on WFAX, said the anti-Christian thrust of the museum's film, entitled Antisemitism,

violates the First Amendment by promoting one religion at taxpayers' expense while denigrating another—in this case, Judaism over Christianity.

The entire film, Crowley charged, is anti-Christian. He is urging members of Congress to view it themselves. He cited several examples in the film of what he described as "a taxpayer-financed assault against Christianity." The film includes assertions that throughout history "Christians persecuted Jews," and it impugns the Gospel accounts of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John (accusing the four of falsifying the story of the crucifixion of Jesus Christ). Crowley also noted the film's failure to acknowledge any Christian compassion or kindness toward Jews, ever, for 2000 years.

"The museum is located on property donated by U.S. citizens, and is maintained at public expense by acts of Congress," explained Crowley. "So it is simply not right that American taxpayers should be forced to subsidize this kind of religious intolerance, bigotry, and discrimination against Christians' faith."

He cited Texas Congressman Tom DeLay's assertion on the floor of the House of Representatives, documented in the Congressional Record, that the maintenance of the museum will cost taxpayers more annually than the Air and Space Museum and several other Washington memorials and monuments combined.

All 535 members of Congress have received a hand delivered letter to their offices from Crowley, urging them to support legislation or a resolution to eliminate the film from the museum's program. Crowley pointed out that the film "violates the very spirit of tolerance which the museum purports to exemplify."

Bill Watson dies at 70

Former Mississippi Baptist pastor Bill Watson of Clinton died July 30 following a lengthy illness. He was 70. Funeral services were held Aug. 2 at Lakewood Memorial Funeral Home, Jackson.

A native of Ellisville, Watson served several churches in the state as minister of education and pastor prior to 1966. His last full-time pastorate was with Briarwood Church, Jackson.

In 1966, he joined the staff of the Mississippi Department of Rehabilitation Services, working in several positions. At his retirement in 1992, he was chaplain and supervisor of Goodwill's Rehabilitation Program. He also was interim pastor of several churches in the Hinds/Madison Association during those years. He was a member of Northside Church, Clinton, at the time of his death.

Watson held degrees from Jones County Junior College, Mississippi College, Southern Seminary, and Mississippi State University. He is survived by his wife Ann, of Clinton, and two sons, Paul of Clinton, and Billy, minister of education for First Church, Lufkin, Texas.

Revival Dates

Oak Grove, Mount Olive: Aug. 15-18; Sunday services, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7:30 p.m.; Max Jones, Silver Creek, evangelist; Ernest Rials, music; John Barnes, pastor.

Montevista, Eupora: Aug. 15-20; Sunday, 5:30 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., 7:30 p.m.; Walter Butler, Sparta, evangelist; Keith Dendy, pastor.

Friendship, Aberdeen: Aug. 15-18; Sunday, men's prayer breakfast, 7 a.m., 11 a.m., and 6 p.m.; week nights, 7 p.m.; Tommy Cunningham, West Memphis, Ark., evangelist; Hubert Greer, music; Todd Bowen, pastor.

Belmont Road, Sardis: Aug. 13-15; Fri. and Sat., 7 p.m.; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 5 p.m.; Lee Hudson, Union, evangelist; Bennie and Dianne McCaleb, Greenwood, music; A.R. Garrison, pastor.

Williamsville, Kosciusko: Aug. 15-18; J. Garland McKee, director of evangelism, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, evangelist; Andy Cummings, Columbus, music; Allen Simpson, pastor.

Providence, Hattiesburg: Aug. 15-18; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 9 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Bob Kendrick, El Salvador, Calif., evangelist; Mike Hanford, Lumberton, music; Cliff Lazenby, pastor.

Emmett Wade retires from Northwest Association

Emmett Wade Sr. has announced he will retire from the position of director of religious education of



Wade

Northwest Association. Wade also served as interim director of administration after Ervin Brown retired. The association will host a reception in honor of him and his wife LaWanda, Aug. 15, 2-4 p.m. at First Church, Nesbit.

Wade came to the Northwest Association in 1986 after eight years at Hannibal-LaGrange College, Hannibal, Mo., where he had been professor of religious education.

Prior to that post, he served as minister of education, minister of youth, and minister of music in Tennessee and California Baptist churches.

He was educated at Thomas A. Edison State University and Golden Gate Seminary.

The Wades have three children and eight grandchildren. They will continue to make their home in the Bridgetown community following their retirement.

Union (Alcorn): Aug. 15-18; Sunday, homecoming services at regular time with a fellowship meal and singing to follow; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Robert Daniel, New Albany, evangelist.

Cumberland, Maben: Aug. 15-18; 7 each evening; David Grisham, Columbus, evangelist; Mike Stewart, pastor, will direct the music.

First, Richton: Aug. 13-14; youth revival sponsored by Perry Association; 7 p.m. nightly with Sharber and Sally Smith of Heidelberg; music presented by youths in the association; a "Pizza Blast" will be held on Aug. 14 at 6 p.m.

Oak Grove, Benton: Aug. 15-18; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7:30 p.m.; Marion Dees Jr., Columbus, evangelist; Bill Martin, Benton, music; Dale Nowell, pastor.

Whitesand, Prentiss: Aug. 15-18; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Gene Henderson, Brandon, evangelist; Charles Wesley, pastor.

Pilgrim's Rest, Crystal Springs: Aug. 15-20; 10:30 a.m. and 7 p.m. daily; Calvary Singers, Mesquite, Texas, singing and preaching; Sat., adult choir musical, "There's a Meetin' Here Tonight," by Dianne and Lee Turner; G.P. Bufkin, pastor.

Oak Grove, Smithdale: Aug. 16-20; 7 p.m. nightly; Wayne Tally, Livingston, La., evangelist; Darron Tally, missionary from Korea, music; Buddy McMorris, pastor.

Christ, Greenwood (Leflore): Aug. 22-25; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.; 7:30 nightly; Johnny Rakestraw, New Albany, evangelist; Hubert Greer, Wesson, music; L.D. Brown Jr., pastor.

Names in the News

The Sims Brothers of Florence will present a program of gospel music, Aug. 15, at **First Church, Canton**. The program will be held in the family life center at 6:30 p.m. For more information, call (601) 924-8504.

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (ABP) — Marsha Ellis Smith, an editor at the Baptist Sunday School Board, has been named associate vice president for academic administration at Southern Seminary. President Al Mohler and David Dockery, vice president for academic administration, announced the appointment Aug. 2, Mohler's first working day as president. The position is a new alignment

of duties previously held by Harold Songer, who retired last year as vice president for academic affairs. Smith will oversee academic scheduling, the seminary catalogue, academic records, enrollment services, and other mechanics of the academic process.

Live It To The Max! Be The One, a youth musical, will be presented at **Cross Roads Church, Pelahatchie**, on Aug. 15. There will be two performances: 6:30 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. The youths participating will be from Concord, Cross Roads, Line Creek, and Walker Hill churches. For more information, call 537-3369.

Homecomings

Oak Grove, Shubuta: Aug. 15; 11 a.m.; covered dish at noon in fellowship hall; Edsol C. Wells, Meridian, guest speaker; Harold Hollingsworth, Meridian, music; Billy Whitaker, pastor.

First, Magee: Aug. 15; 11 a.m.; dinner at noon in fellowship hall; concert by The Revelations at 1 p.m.; Alvis H. Styron Jr., Memphis, guest speaker; Tim Hubbard, Hattiesburg, music; Oliver C. Ladd, pastor.

Calvary, Silver Creek: Aug. 15; 11 a.m.; dinner on the grounds, and singing at 1:30 p.m.; Gary Breeland, Hannibal, Mo., guest speaker; Scott Adkins, guest singer; services will be held Aug. 13-14 at 7 p.m.; Gary Breeland, speaker; Mike Sutton, pastor.

Oak Grove, Smithdale: Aug. 15; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m.; dinner in fellowship hall, noon; singing, 1:30 p.m.; Buddy McMorris, pastor.

Missionary News

Kevin and Pam Shearer, missionaries to Peru, are on the field (address: Apartado 2307, Arequipa, Peru). He was born in Ellisville; and she is the former Pam Hill of Laurel. Both consider Laurel their hometown.

Tom and Gloria Thurman, missionaries to Bangladesh, are in the States (address: 425 Ford St., Columbia, MS 39429). He is a native of Monticello.

Karl and Peggy Wallace, missionaries to El Salvador, are in the States (address: Apartado 137, Cajamarca, Peru). Born in Magee, he lived most of his life in Jackson. She is the former Peggy Vaughn of Jackson.

David and Melissa Chism, missionaries to Spain, are on the field (address: Avda. Buenavista 6, 2-C, 33006 Oviedo, Asturias, Spain). He was born in Tupelo.

Staff Changes



Beckham

First Church, Purvis, has recently called two new staff members. **Jody Beckham** is assuming the position of minister of music and education. He is a recent graduate of Southwestern Seminary. **Ray Cummings**, a recent graduate of William Carey College, has been called to the position of minister of youth and recreation. He will enter New Orleans Seminary this fall and will continue in a part-time status at First Church. **Louis Nicolosi** is pastor.

Collins Church, Collins, has called **John R. Sapp** as pastor. He goes to Collins from Success Church, Saucier.

First Church, Magee, has

Tilton asks high court to stay hearing on contempt

WASHINGTON, D.C. (EP) — Televangelist Robert Tilton has asked the U.S. Supreme Court to stay a Texas decree which could lead to his being cited for contempt of court.

Tilton was ordered to appear at a hearing July 23 to explain why he has not produced documents in a damage suit. Tilton and his Word of Faith World Outreach Center Church are being sued by Norma Smith of Dallas.

Three months after her husband's death, Smith received a brochure in which Tilton prophesied her hus-

band would recover on a "miracle day." She says for months after his death, she received letters from the ministry hounding her husband to honor a financial pledge allegedly made two months after his death.

Smith's attorney filed a contempt motion against Tilton for failing to produce records requested in the lawsuit.

The Texas Supreme Court has ordered Tilton to produce the documents, but Tilton has asked the U.S. Supreme Court to stay that order, saying it violates First Amendment rights.

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Gilyard returns to Florida to pastor non-SBC church

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (ABP) — Darrell Gilyard, the controversial former Southern Baptist pastor, has returned to his native Florida to become pastor of Shiloh Metropolitan Baptist Church in Jacksonville.

Gilyard, 31, who two years ago was the most sought-after black preacher in Southern Baptist circles, felt out of favor with his prominent Baptist backers in July 1991 amid recurring allegations of sexual misconduct with female members of his congregations.

Gilyard denied the allegations, but he later admitted to unspecified "improprieties" and resigned as pastor of the multiracial Victory Church in Richardson, Texas, which he had led to become one of the fastest-growing churches in the nation.

Although advised by his mentor Paige Patterson of Dallas to refrain from preaching for two years, Gilyard and about 125 former Victory members formed a new congregation in nearby Garland two weeks later.

He left that church four months ago and began preaching at Shiloh, a non-Southern Baptist church in Jacksonville. In that time, attendance has risen from about 300 people to 1,000 each week, according to Ella Marie Sykes, director of church ministries.

Gilyard was installed as pastor July 25.

Sykes told the **Florida Times-Union** the church is not concerned with Gilyard's past, but with the future.

Gilyard, who declined to be interviewed, was "discovered" in the early 1980s by Jerry Vines, pastor of First Church of Jacksonville and later Southern Baptist Convention president.

Vines helped Gilyard enroll in Criswell College in Dallas, where he was befriended by then-President Paige Patterson. With Patterson's endorsement, the young preaching phenom became a rising star on the predominantly white Southern Baptist speaking circuit.

First Church, Batesville, celebrates 150

First Church, Batesville, will celebrate its 150th anniversary Sunday, Aug. 29. Sunday School will begin at 10 a.m., followed by worship service at 11, with Bob Self of First, Brookhaven, as guest speaker. Dinner on the grounds will follow the morning worship, and there will be an afternoon singing.

The night service will consist of various dramatic presentations describing events in the history of the church. Howard Kolb is pastor. For more information, call (601) 563-7655.

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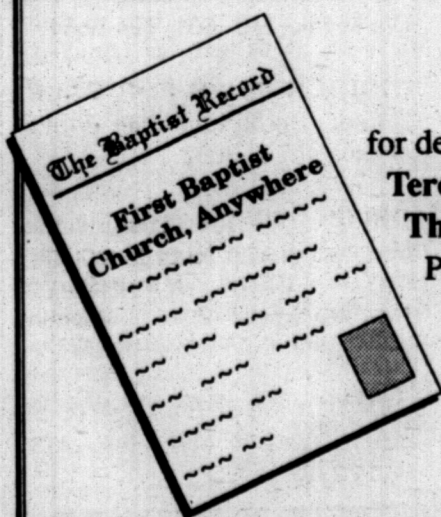
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Thursday, August 12, 1993

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 9

Just for the Record



Rocky Creek Church, Lucedale, recently held a candlelight recognition service for its GAs, pictured above. Twenty-three girls received badges. They are, left to right: front row, Maegan Smith, Carrie Tilley, Kristen Edins, Tamara Havard; second row, Natasha Fleming, Cori Walters, Chrissy Hilbun, Robin Eubanks; third row, Deanna Mixon, Jessica Sellas, Melissa Harrison, Katie Rogers; fourth row, Kathryn Wallace, Valerie Hilbun, Tara Kittrell, Amber Brown; back row, Jennifer Eubanks, Vickie Tillman, Mandy Tilley, Robin Davis, Robin Drinkard, Rebecca Wilson, and Ashley Mallette. Patricia Croom is GA director.

Two GAs, pictured at right, were pinned by their mothers during the recognition service in honor of their completion of all Mission Adventure books. They are Mandy Tilley and Robin Drinkard. Their mothers are Billie Tilley and Teresa Drinkard.



The Witness quartet of Jackson, formerly the Deacons, will present a gospel music concert at Mt. Vernon Church, Webster County, Aug. 15 at 1:30 p.m. The concert will follow morning services and a covered dish lunch. A love offering will be taken. For more information, call (601) 258-7895.

Perfect Heart will be in concert at the Clarksdale Civic Auditorium at 7 p.m. on Aug. 12. Benefits will go to the Crisis Pregnancy Center in Lyon, according to the Tallahatchie Association, M.C. Johnson, director of missions.

Arrowood Church, Meridian, will present the Liberty Quartet in concert at 7 p.m. on Friday, Aug. 13. A love offering will be received to aid cancer victim Sue Stevens.

Copiah church hosts awakening conference

Zion Hill Church (Copiah), will hold a spiritual awakening conference Aug. 15-20, beginning at 10:45 a.m. Sunday, followed by dinner on the grounds.

A different speaker will be featured each evening at 7 p.m. Tony Hinton is in charge of music; Daryl Oster is pastor.



Ebenezer Church, Bassfield, held its Acteen recognition service May 16. Those who received awards, left to right, are: service aide, Linda Polk and Tina Mitchell; queen regent in service, Terri Lee; and queen regent, Ashley Broome. Janet Lee is Acteen leader.



First Church, Holly Springs, renovated its Christian Activities Center which added seven new Sunday School rooms. The members will move into the facilities Sunday, Aug. 15, debt free. Building committee, pictured, first row, are Wayne Dodson, Melba Shadrach, Martha Morrow, Roland McAlexander, Donald Pogue and Thad Moore, pastor; second row, Tom Boone and Wayne Sorrell, chairman.



Lamar men build van cover

A group of men from Lamar Association recently sponsored a construction project for members of the Woman's Missionary Union of the state. The team designed and built a 40'X16' structure at Camp Garaywa to house the new WMU Disaster Relief motor home, and protect it from the elements. Those who participated in this project, pictured, were Director of Missions Douglas Benedict, Max Ball, Philip Butler, Dwain Daniels, George Legg, Grayson Lott, Richard Miley, Bob Nisley, and Tommy Odom.

GA members "drown" foreign missionaries in Kool-aid drink mix

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — Clyde and Ann Berkley, Southern Baptist missionaries to Kenya, are "drowning" in Kool-aid thanks to thousands of young girls across America.

Last fall, members of Girls in Action studied work that Southern Baptist missionaries are doing in Kenya. GA is the missions organization sponsored by Woman's Missionary Union for girls in elementary school.

The October GA leader magazine, *Aware*, included a letter written by the Berkleys to be shared with GA members. In the letter, they told the girls about the students they work with during school holidays and vacations.

"You can help us by praying for our students and by sending a package of unsweetened fruit drink mix when you write to us this Christmas," the Berkleys wrote.

The Berkleys use the drink mix to serve refreshments in the Bible clubs they lead during school vacations and holidays.

The Berkleys also encouraged the girls to send them Christmas

cards. Each week throughout the year, the missionary family chooses five of the cards they received at Christmastime. They use them to pray for the families who sent the cards.

Recently, Barbara Massey, editor of both *Aware* magazine and *Discovery*, the GA member magazine, received a letter from the Berkleys telling her how they had been overwhelmed with cards and Kool-aid.

GA members in 2,553 churches representing 44 states and Canada sent 15,156 Christmas cards and 15,560 packages of Kool-aid.

"We are teaching girls in GA to respond to needs," Massey said. "GAs are naturally doers. Through *Discovery* magazine, they learned about a need and immediately wanted to do something about it."

"When you consider the fact that we have over 202,000 girls learning about missions through GA, I don't know that the number is that surprising. GAs overwhelmingly respond to needs."

(Mississippian Barbara Wilkerson of Brandon wrote the unit of study about Kenya.)

Harold Dean Smith, 59, dies

Harold Dean Smith, minister of music at Ruleville Church in Sunflower County, died July 18. He was 59.

Smith had been in music ministry for 36 years. He served churches in Texas and Mississippi.

He is survived by his wife Shirley Walker Smith; son

Jonathan of Little Rock, Ark.; two daughters, Claire Hall of Memphis and Jennifer Smith of Smyrna, Tenn.; four brothers, Joel of Texas, Larry of Sardis, Jimmy of Ruleville, and Don of Tupelo; two sisters, Dixie Ball of Jackson and Carol Sasebie of Cleveland; and five grandchildren.

Letters to the editor



Report from Brazil

Editor:

I would like to take this means of reporting on a mission trip to Cascavel, Brazil, in which I was involved back in March.

In Brazil we stayed in the home of one of our Southern Baptist missionaries, the Roger Stacys. He is a church planter in Cascavel.

We went house to house, personally witnessing to the lost, visiting in the homes of church members, and meeting people in the marketplace and in their businesses, and preaching in the mission churches and the "Mother Church," Calvary Baptist Church of Cascavel. This church and the missions were established through the efforts of Stacy.

The effort for our Lord resulted in six conversions.

We just wanted to report to the *Record* so that others may rejoice with us in this work.

I am a family physician practicing in Bassfield, and am a member of Bassfield Church, Bassfield (Jefferson Davis Association).

Frank Leggett
Bassfield

Praise for Morton

Editor:

In response to Shirley H. Smith's letter to the editor (July 29) which was in response to Dan Morton's letter to the editor (July 15) let me say that I believe that the Scripture she [sic] is referring to is Matthew 28:19, which in fact says, "Go ye into all the world and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and of the Holy Ghost" (KJV). Many groups can as she puts it "develop a sense of excitement" but only God's church and godly people can teach God's plan of salvation, which is putting our trust in God's Son Jesus Christ and believing that Jesus died in our place, that he rose from death and the grave, and he lives today in heaven making intercession for us to the Father.

Dan Morton has spent his life doing just that, teaching God's plan of salvation and God's plan for our lives. I agree with him that we could "turn the music down a few decibels." Sometimes I feel we disturb the dead! Morton is God's man. We can learn from his past experiences. He was my pastor in Amory many years. I realize the letter was not an attack on him personally. However, I'm with Morton. Can't we with all the "excitement" going on around us in the world just worship in a spirit of humility?

Eugenia Kendrick
Amory

Agrees with Morton

Editor:

I, too, agree with Dan Morton, retired Mississippi pastor, in regard to the loud music in our churches. Not only do I not like the loud music; but I don't like the orchestras with their loud saxophones, trombones, and clarinets, and the loud canned music the soloists use for their accompaniment. What is

wrong with soft music played by the organist or pianist?

It is very hard to be in a worshipful mood when your eardrums feel like they are bursting from the loud music. This is one of the reasons why I stopped staying for the preaching services after Sunday School at my church.

Wanda C. Calliss
Ridgeland

Courage on the coast

Editor:

I want to publicly thank Leon Long, manager of WLOX-TV, the ABC affiliate in Biloxi, for deciding to pre-empt the showing of a new "R-rated" TV program this fall.

According to *USA Today*, the pilot show for "NYPD Blue," due to premier in September, has a sex scene that includes raw language. When casting for the series, Hollywood agents were told that nudity would be required of the actresses who'll portray the show's two female leads.

Because of the offensive content of "NYPD Blue," WLOX has decided to pre-empt the first segment of the series with a wholesome family program called "Mississippi Profiles." Long says that if future segments of the show continue to be offensive, WLOX will continue to pre-empt the show.

Thank you, Leon Long, for upholding standards of decency. In this day and time, the kind of stand you are taking is sorely needed.

Bob Rogers, pastor
First Church
Poplarville

Review of prayer case

Editor:

Last year the Supreme Court decided *Lee vs. Weisman* (1992), in which it struck down prayers delivered by a rabbi at a Rhode Island middle school graduation ceremony. This term it declined to review a Texas case, *Jones vs. Clear Creek* (1993). There the lower court had approved a policy of allowing students to vote on whether to deliver a "non-sectarian, non-proselytizing" prayer at graduation.

We have read several editorials and articles in the Baptist press suggesting that the Supreme Court effectively affirmed the holding in the *Jones* case when it declined to review that case. This is simply not so.

The law is well-settled that a denial of review by the Supreme Court does not amount to an approval of what the lower court held. The Supreme Court receives over 6,000 petitions for review each year and takes only a little over 100. One cannot conclude that the Court agrees with the nearly 5,900 cases that it turns down. There are many reasons the Court would not take a particular case. A denial of review no more signals approval than does granting a review reveal disagreement. Indeed, the Court affirms many of the cases it does review.

Regardless of how one views the

issue of prayer at school-sponsored events, it is absolutely clear that *Jones* has no binding precedential effect outside Texas, Louisiana, and Mississippi. The Supreme Court's denial of review simply means that for a number of reasons — or even no reason — it declined to take the case.

I hope this short memo clears up some confusion surrounding this very important development in the law.

J. Brent Walker
Associate general counsel
Baptist Joint Committee
Washington, D.C.

Search objectively

Editor:

In response to the July 29 letter "Search the Word," I would encourage the writer to search the Word. To use Exodus 21:22-25 or Genesis 2:7 as proof texts for abortion or choice rights reflect the ideas of one who has not searched the Word or even read those passages.

Withholding the name of the writer admits that there is something to hide. If I were endeavoring to influence others, I would put a name with my view.

If one really wishes to answer the questions set forth in "Search the Word," I suggest first search the Word objectively, instead of looking for proof texts for one's views, and secondly R.C. Sproul's book, *Abortion: A Rational Look at an Emotional Issue*.

Tom Fox, pastor
Bethlehem Church
Scott Association

Article was noticed

Editor:

The news article ("Study on 'genetics' of homosexuality called the Kinsey scam of the '90s") appeared in your paper July 22. I regularly read the Baptist papers from the states of Mississippi, Kentucky, Texas, and Oklahoma, as well as from our own state of Arizona. So far, yours is the only Baptist paper to have carried the article, unless it simply escaped my attention in the others.

The information contained in the article is most significant in the light of present debates. If its authenticity is beyond question, the ultimate bearing on the current homosexual problems will be great. You and I, believing as we do that the Bible is the Word of God, need no substantiating studies to accept as fact that homosexuality is wrong. But those who are undecided may possibly be influenced toward deeper investigation if they see such ideas in print.

I would offer the suggestion that Christian publications need to make much of Mawyer's conclusions. It's simply not enough for such information to have appeared in only one of our Baptist papers. Many Christians would prefer that it be published in all our papers, not just once, but frequently.

Joseph N. Causey
Associate pastor
North Phoenix (Ariz.) Church

Uniform New behavior



By Michael O'Brien
Ephesians 5:1-20

As you study this lesson, ask the Lord to reveal to you any area of behavior in which you need to more closely imitate our Lord. Christ wants us to be his followers, not as in the child's game of follow the leader, but in following his examples of behavior.

Imitate God by living in love (vv. 1-3). There is no need for me to quote John 3:16, is there? We have learned it from childhood. We learn that God is love. Paul says to "follow God as children." Paul is stressing the new relationship we have with God as we come into the faith (John 1:12). Children have a tendency to imitate their parents, and Paul wants us to be imitators of our Heavenly Father. Christ has given us himself, demonstrating the depth of his love. We should love others in such a way that they will see Christ in our lives.

Deny the world by rejecting Satan's offers (vv. 3-7). Verse 7 says, "Be not ye therefore partakers with them." Paul has listed a host of evils that are to be avoided by the saints. He cautions that many are being led astray by vain words of worldly people. I read of a sign a man posted in his restaurant that said, "I have an agreement with the bank, they won't sell food and I won't cash checks." God has an agreement with this world: sinners are going to Heaven! Look at verse 5; are these sins unforgivable? Of course not, but a person must come out of his sin when he comes to Christ in faith. Satan will never quit making offers; he will always be the tempter until Christ takes him out of the way. Jesus has provided the answer for us, however (1 Cor 10:13). God always provide the way of escape.

Accept Paul's challenge to live as light (vv. 8-14). "You were darkness, now you are light in the Lord!" (v. 8). Christian qualities need to be developed. Have you ever looked at a body builder with muscles in places where some of us don't have places; and wondered how he got that way? Well, he developed those muscles with a lot of hard work. We all need to work at developing distinctive Christian qualities, just as the body builder works at developing muscles.

Paul also cautions against compromise. He carries it even a step further, take a stand against wrong. What do you feel when you see others standing up for right, standing up against evil? Do you often think, I wish I had that boldness? Well, Paul says that those things are exposed by the light of the Word and you are on solid ground when you take a firm stand.

Redeem the time (vv. 15-17). The encouragement of these verses is that we should take every opportunity to influence the lost for Christ. Paul says "because the days are evil" (v. 16). I would add to that that the days are also growing shorter. How long will God wait? God knows. However, we know also that each day that passes draws us one day nearer. All the indications are that Christ could come soon and we need to be doing our part in winning the lost to him. Do you work with a lost person, or go to school, or live next door to a lost person? What are you doing to bring that person to Christ? Look once more at verse 17: "...understanding what the will of the Lord is." Can we seriously feel that it is not the Lord's will for us to share our faith? We know what God wants us to do, so let's just do it.

The filling of the Spirit (vv. 18-20). When we study this verse we tend to overlook the first admonition of Paul, "be not drunk with wine." Although I could, I will not try to build a case for abstinence in this lesson. We are clearly instructed to stay sober and Paul says so. The Greek language leads us to believe that being filled is an on-going every day process. Let's heed Paul's encouragement to be thankful (v. 20) that God loves us, uses us, and empowers us every day that we will allow him to do so.

O'Brien is pastor, First Church, Lexington.

Bible Book Anticipate Christ's return



By Jewel P. Merritt
2 Peter 3:3-15

Because of the nature of their jobs, some businessmen find it necessary to travel. Children waiting at home long for their daddy to return. Often as they run to greet him, they call, "What did you bring us?" In a sense we Christians have been left at home, our earthly home. We long for Christ's return. But we know what he will bring us — eternity with him, enjoying the new heaven and earth. How should we conduct ourselves as we await this joyous occasion?

Those who scoff about Christ's return (vv. 3-4). Some things in our lives need to be forgotten. The burden of real or imagined wrongs against ourselves becomes a wearisome load. We need to forgive and forget. Other things need to be remembered. God's great grace and mercy extended to us and the admonitions of prophets and apostles found in our Bible should be remembered. After reminding them to heed the prophets' and apostles' teachings, Peter warned his readers of "last day" scoffers. When are these "last days?" We are living in them. When Jesus was born in Bethlehem, the last days began. When he comes for the second time, time as we know it will end. But the scoffers questioned his promised return. They insisted that life went on as always.

The certainty of the Lord's promised return (vv. 5-10). By the spoken word of the Lord, the universe was created. By his word, the flood came, destroying the wicked people of Noah's day. His word will bring the fiery day of judgment also. God always has and always will control the universe. Let his readers listen to the questions of scoffers, Peter reminded them that God does not look at time as we do. In verse 8 he quoted the psalmist (90:4), saying that a day is like 1,000 years to the Lord and 1,000 years like a day. Peter added that the reason for the Lord's delay was his patience with sinners. What if Jesus had returned the day before you confessed him as Lord and Savior? How comforting to know that the Lord wants no one to perish! His desire is that all should repent. Even though the Lord offers to be your Savior today, there will come a day when he will be your Judge.

Proper preparation for Christ's return (vv. 11-15). Since the world and all its works will be destroyed, what kind of lives should we Christians be living? Some people put so much effort and time into their businesses. Places of business will not survive the day of the Lord. Beautiful homes will not survive either. What will survive that gloriously awesome day? We will. What can we do to prepare for Christ's return? Peter told his readers to live holy, godly lives. One who is so living will have his/her priorities in order. The temporary nature of the earth and its works should encourage us to focus our attention on living lives dedicated to the Lord. Luke wrote in 21:28, "When these things begin to take place, stand up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near." In 2 Peter 3:12 Peter wrote that we should look forward to the day of God. He also indicated that we could speed its coming. We can do this by witnessing. Jesus said that the gospel will be preached in the whole world and then the end will come (Matt. 24:14). Jesus also instructed us to pray for the Lord's kingdom to come (Matt. 6:10). Living holy, godly lives will hasten his return also. We will survive the return of the Lord. Believers will enjoy eternal life with him and fellowship with each other. Non-believers will survive also and will experience eternal separation from the Lord. Who can face the day of the Lord fearlessly because you shared God's love with them?

Merritt is a member of First Church, Jackson.

Life and Work Illusion of financial security



By Mark A. Rathel
James 4:13-5:11

"How do I neglect Thee? Let me count the ways." We neglect God by focusing attention upon selfish pursuits (4:1-4); we spurn God by treating the world as a friend (4:4); we disregard God by failing to respect our Christian brothers (4:11-12); we overlook God by seeking security in riches (4:13-5:11).

Materialism is perhaps the greatest threat to biblical faith in the latter part of the 20th century. A grasping, hoarding attitude toward money and possession is out of character for a Christian living in submission to the authority of God. As the Israelites forsook God and sought security through foreign alliances, Christians may forsake God by seeking security through financial resources rather than the will of God. James challenges believers to adopt the proper attitude toward material possessions.

Do not arrogantly make plans (4:13-17). James addressed a wake-up call to Christian businessmen. These businessmen presumptuously made plans for a definite journey, to stay a definite time, to conduct a definite business, and to earn a definite profit. They neglected only one detail, God. Planning for the future is wise, but planning without God is a declaration of independence from him.

The presumption of the businessmen was illogical and unspiritual. Their arrogance was illogical because they did not know what tomorrow would bring, let alone a year of tomorrows. James compared life to a mist which dissipates by noon. Like the vanishing mist, financial security can evaporate quickly. The brevity of life necessitates a life lived in dependence upon God.

Presumptuous planning is unspiritual because such planning overlooks God's will. To discover God's will is to discover life at its best. Christians are to live in submission to God's will, rather than to emptily attach the phrase "if it is God's will" as a tag-on to their self-made plans.

Do not be envious of the wicked rich (5:1-6). Like an Old Testament prophet condemning the foreign nations, James condemns the wicked rich. James did not address this warning to the non-Christian rich. This warning is for Christians. God will judge the rich; therefore, it is folly for believers to admire, emulate, or be envious of the rich.

James accused the rich of four specific sins: the hoarding of wealth, non-payment of wages, luxurious self-indulgence, and judicial murder. In the first century, wealth consisted of the possession of lands, the hoarding of grain, the accumulation of clothing, and the collection of precious metals. Grain rots; moths attack garments; and even gold and silver tarnish. The rotting wealth of the rich will testify for the Prosecution on judgment day. Hoarded wealth eats flesh like fire — that is, greed results in destruction. The wicked rich, however, are like cattle being fattened for the day of slaughter. They are unaware of their certain fate.

Do not lose heart (5:7-11). Modern Christians want health, wealth, and wisdom, and we want it now. Like a Palestinian farmer awaiting a harvest, James challenges Christians to take the long look as they await the return of the Lord.

James commands Christians to be patient. The Greek word translated "patient" has two connotations. One connotation is that of self-restraint that does not seek revenge. Another connotation is long-tempered. Believers are not to seek revenge against the oppressing rich, and they are to be long-tempered in regard to the faults of others. Tense pressures can lead to grumbling, a reference to suppressed moans or complaints against another believer. God stands ready to judge fault-finding Christians.

The prophets are examples of patience. Jeremiah suffered imprisonment and threats of murder by his own family. In light of how godly individuals have suffered hardship because of faithfulness, do you think God is patient with believers' demands for immediate blessings?

Job is exemplary of perseverance in difficult circumstances, not patience. God blesses perseverance, the determination to be loyal and faithful regardless of the present circumstances.

Rathel is pastor, Bay Vista Church, Biloxi.

capsules

GEORGIAN LEAVES \$1.25 MILLION TO SOUTHERN BAPTIST CAUSES: NASHVILLE (BP) — A Georgia Baptist layman has bequeathed \$1.25 million to Southern Baptist causes including \$250,000 to the small, rural church of his boyhood. E. Buford Seymour, longtime resident of Eatonton, Ga., died June 29 at the age of 85. His wife, Marie, died in April of this year. According to his will, Seymour directed \$250,000 be given to Rehoboth Church in Bowman, Ga.; \$500,000 to the Southern Baptist Convention Foreign Mission Board; and \$500,000 to the Executive Committee of the SBC for the Cooperative Program.

BSSB VICE PRESIDENT TO BECOME CONSULTANT: NASHVILLE (BP) — Citing proposals for changes in the role of chief financial officer of the Baptist Sunday School Board, E.V. King, vice president for finance and administration, said he has resigned his position, effective immediately. King, 50, who joined the board in 1984, will serve as a consultant to BSSB President James T. Draper Jr. through December 1994. "I have had an opportunity to review a study of the board's corporate overhead structure and senior management positions," King said Aug. 2. "After discussing it with Dr. Draper, particularly the changing role of the chief financial officer, I think it is best for me to look for other opportunities and let the board bring in new leadership in this area."

MODERATE BAPTISTS START ALTERNATIVE YOUTH CAMP: BRADENTON, Fla. (ABP) — Moderate Baptists have started their own youth camp as an alternative to the popular "Centrifuge" program sponsored by the Baptist Sunday School Board. The week-long camp, called "Passport," was held July 19-24 at a Christian retreat center in Bradenton, Fla. A total of 162 teenagers attended from 12 churches in four states — Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, and South Carolina. Passport was put together by five former Centrifuge staff members and sponsored by the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of Florida, which put up the money to get the camp off the ground. Plans for next year call for three weeks of camp serving 250 to 350 teenagers. A new location farther north is being sought. Although patterned after the popular Centrifuge summer camp, Passport also incorporated some noticeable changes — like having a woman as camp pastor. Passport also employed a greater emphasis on missions and a less zealous approach to evangelism. "The winds are changing, and it's time to offer youth something other than just a 'turn or burn' evangelistic approach," said Jim Bush, camp coordinator.

SENATE VOTES TO SUBSIDIZE FEDERAL EMPLOYEES' ABORTIONS: WASHINGTON (BP) — For the first time in 10 years, American taxpayers will pay for federal employees to have elective abortions. Using a rarely invoked procedure, the Senate recently voted 51-48 to kill an amendment which would have prohibited federal funds from helping pay for most abortions through health insurance coverage for federal employees and their dependents. Despite the defeat, pro-life advocates expressed encouragement the close vote signals trouble for President Clinton's plan to include abortion coverage in his health care reform proposal. The margin "indicates that unless abortion is dropped from President Clinton's national health bill, that bill will die in the Senate by filibuster, if not by majority vote," said Doug Johnson, the National Right to Life Committee's legislative director.

GREGORY NOT GOING TO SEMINARY POST: LOUISVILLE, Ky. (ABP) — Joel Gregory apparently will not become dean of the chapel at Southern Seminary. The former pastor of First Church, Dallas, who currently is without a permanent pulpit, visited on the school's Louisville, Ky., campus in late June. Seminary sources said President Albert Mohler had been talking with Gregory about taking the new position. Mohler has declined to discuss the issue publicly, although he has not denied discussing the position with Gregory. Reliable sources on campus who have asked not to be named have confirmed that Gregory will not take the position. Whether it was actually offered to him is not known. Gregory could not be reached for comment.

Bibliocipher

By Charles Marx
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LX KESSKU BGEKCQUM, KUS OR MIS KITU EM
VIQC, MUESGUQ EM SIOMFU; ZOS EM CUUC OMC
EM SQOSG.

DEQRS HIGM SGQUU:UEFGSUUM

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Luke Nine:Twenty-Nine.

In January, I attended an evangelism conference in Tupelo. During the afternoon, while Bill Duncan, executive director of the Alaska Baptist Convention, was preaching, an extraordinary thing happened: The Lord spoke to me. I didn't hear voices or see visions, but I knew who it was, and I understood what he wanted. The Lord told me to find Rex Baldwin.

Rex Baldwin is my father. I have not seen or heard from him since I was less than two years old — roughly 44 years ago. I was about 21 months old when my mother took me and my younger brother Larry and left our father. Her explanation to us was that while he was a fine person when he was sober, he was terrible when he was drunk. Years later, mother married Bob Kleeb, and as teenagers, my brother and I had our names legally changed to Kleeb. Never once in those 44 years had we received a note, letter, gift, phone call, or a visit from our real father. All I knew about my father was that he was probably somewhere in Alaska.

After the preaching, I waited for Duncan. I told him, "If you run across a man named Rex Baldwin, would you give him this card and tell him he has a son who still loves him." Then I began to lose control, and I fled. Saying I loved my father sounded crazy. I didn't even know my father! How could I say that I loved him?

As my friend Max Parris and I drove home, I struggled with my emotions most of the four-hour trip. I explained to Max what had happened, and we began to pray that God would give me the chance to introduce my father to Jesus. Once home, I called my mother in Knoxville, Tenn., to ask what she knew about my father and his family. She gave me the name of an aunt in Idaho. In talking with her and other relatives, I learned that father's family had disowned him some years earlier. One aunt said he frequently was in the VA Hospital in Anchorage because of his alcoholism.

One morning during my quiet time, I realized that I was angry with my father. All those years, he had never cared, never came! How could I love this man? Suddenly, I remembered that God loved me when I was a sinner. He didn't wait until I was good enough, and he never abandoned me. How could I do less?

So, I called the hospital. While sympathetic, the man I spoke to could tell me nothing because of confidentiality laws. He did give me the name of a state hospital that might be able to help. I called and learned that he had not been a patient there for 10 years, but they suggested I call Lady of Compassion, a Catholic facility.

A son finds his father

By Donald Rex Kleeb

I called and asked if Rex Baldwin was a patient there. The woman said, "Yes. Would you like to speak to him?" I said, "Yes."

He soon came on the line. "Hello."

"Hi!" I said. "This is Donnie."

"Yeah. It's been a long time, hasn't it?"

"Yes sir, it's been about 44 years." We visited for some time, talking about a lot of things. He

told me he was recovering from pneumonia and was not a permanent patient.

Near the end of the conversation, I said, "Dad,

I want to tell you that I love you."

"Well, I always loved you and Larry, too," he replied. He expressed a desire to see me sometime. I told him it might take some time to get enough money to come to Alaska.

"I'm a Baptist preacher," I explained. "While I do make a living, there's not a lot of extra income." That must make his day, I thought. He finally hears from his oldest son after 44 years and he is a Baptist preacher.

Shortly after finishing the conversation with my father, the doorbell rang. A deacon and his wife were at the door with a cake. No one had ever brought us a cake at 9 p.m. I will always believe that it was a "Spirit-inspired" cake.

God knew I would never tell my church family what had happened. I did not want them to think I was asking for a special offering. But when Ronnie and Betty came soon after talking with my father, I could not keep quiet. The next morning they started a movement to send us to Alaska.

Aware that our state convention has a partnership with Alaska, I called the state missions office to see if there was a need in Alaska in which I could assist. I learned that preachers were needed to lead revivals; if we could get to Alaska, churches there would take care of our expenses during our stay.

Soon I was in touch with Jerry Minchew, pastor of Bodenburg Butte Church in Palmer, Alaska, and was invited to preach their revival. My wife Paula and I were given round-trip fare to Alaska by our church.

On March 19, we arrived in Alaska and met pastor Jerry Minchew and his wife Vicky. The next afternoon, Paula and I and Jerry and Vicky returned to Anchorage to look for my dad. Struggling with the address I had, we approached a man standing in the parking lot of an apartment

building. I asked, "Can you help me? I'm looking for Rex Baldwin."

"Sure," he said. "Come with me and I'll take you right to him." (He was one of my father's roommates!) We had a great reunion. We spent about two hours with him. Because he was still weak from the pneumonia, he declined my invitation to come to the revival.

The next day, we visited again for two or three hours. Then I said, "Dad, do you believe in God?" He said that he sort of did, then I said, "I'd like to tell you how I began to look for you." I told him everything. I didn't soften it.

Finally, I said, "Dad, the truth is that I wasn't looking for you until God told me to. If anyone had asked what I thought about you, I would have said that you were not important to me. There are some people who would say that you are just a sorry old drunk who has hurt everybody who ever tried to love you. But, Dad, God loves you, and he told me to find you. Then he made it possible for me to find you and to love you, too."

I wanted so much to introduce him to Jesus. My dad never let me do that, and I didn't force the issue. There is still much I do not know about my dad, but the Lord started this, and he will bring it to maturity. My father and I are in touch by phone fairly often. He is making a serious attempt to be a father, I believe.

The trip is over and life goes on, but I am not the same person I was. Now I have an earthly father, and a richer, fuller understanding of my Heavenly Father. The future is more exciting every day. I wonder what will happen next!

Kleeb is pastor of Oak Grove Church, Mendonhall

Suddenly, I remembered that God loved me when I was a sinner. He didn't wait until I was good enough, and he never abandoned me.

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